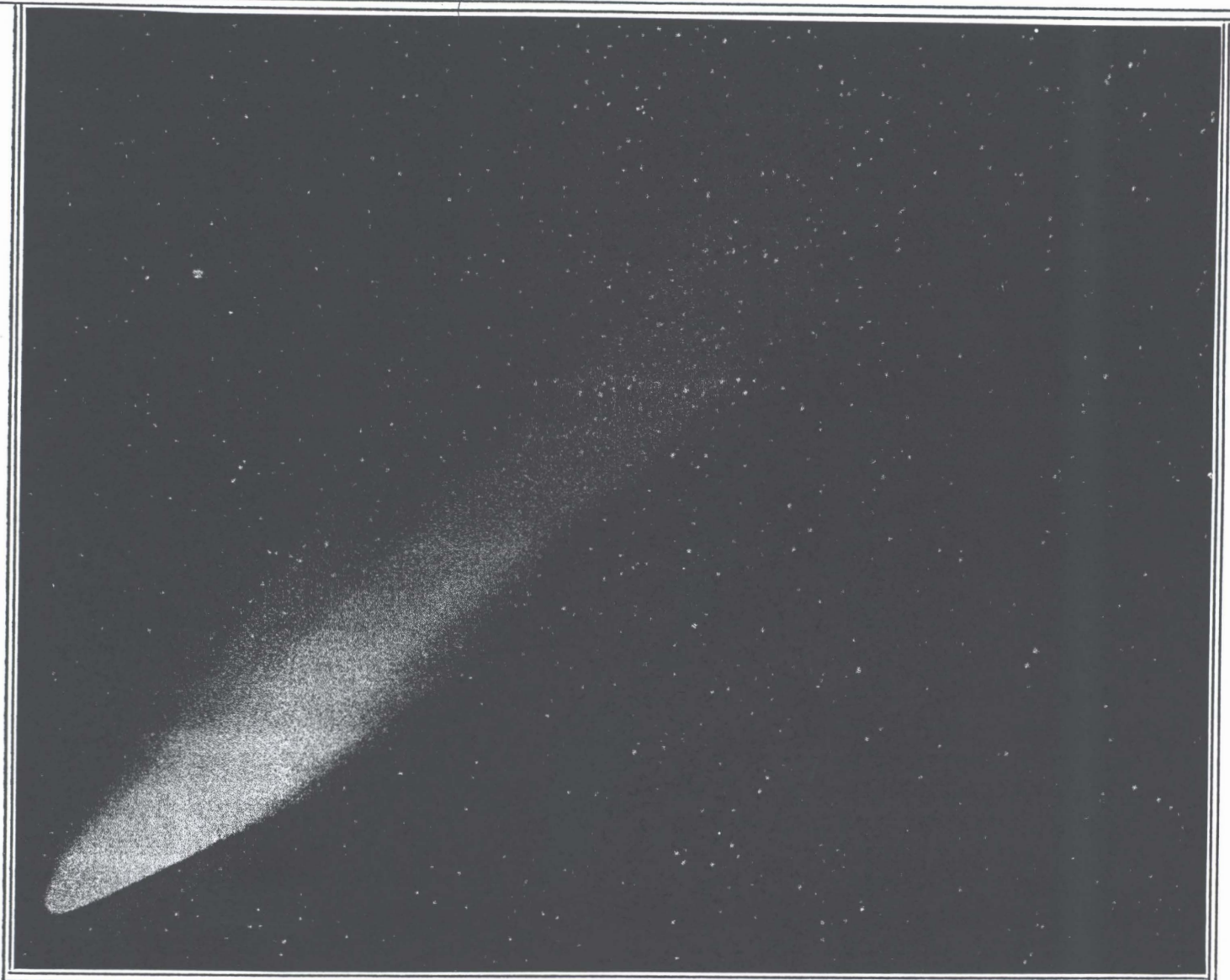


STRANGE DAZE

*"I am half sick of shadows,"
said The Lady of Shalott.
- Alfred Lord Tennyson*



**FEBRUARY 1997
NUMBER 12
PRICE: £1.00**



Comet Hale-Bopp is Coming

with or without a companion

plus

Heart of Darkness: Xenophobia, Racism & Fascism in UFOlogy
& all the other Regular Features

NUFORI Northern UFO Research & Investigation

STRANGE DAZE Number 12 February 1997

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And this damned computer may find itself being recycled too, if it doesn't pull itself together.

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Cover picture: Comet West, 1976 taken by Ronald Royer.

EDITORIAL: TALES OF A STRANGE COMET

Words of Wisdom from the Master Dave, Editor & Top Bloke in the Occult Mysteries.

Greetings fellow humanoids. Welcome to issue 12 of Strange Daze, which means that I've been doing this job now for over three years. And I still haven't made a profit. In this issue you will find the usual mixture of genuine cases, reviews, news items and articles with something to say: No more so than David Sivier's article, "Heart of Darkness", which examines the darker side of UFOlogy.

No-one interested in either astronomy or UFOs could have failed to have heard of Comet Hale-Bopp by now. It promises to be one of the brightest comets seen from Earth in the last couple of hundred years and, thanks to the information revolution of the last few years, one of the most hyped. Because of the unexpected appearance last year of Comet Hyakutake, interest in comets is high. Like buses, there aren't any for ages and then two come along all at once. Through various UFO magazines, and especially on the Internet, a lot has already been written about this new comet. Tales of companion objects that look like Saturn and strange radio signals being decoded. Let us be quite clear about all these stories: **There is nothing unusual about Comet Hale Bopp.** Sorry if that spoils the party folks. By the middle of March Hale Bopp will be close enough for everyone to have a good look at it. If I'm wrong, I'll stand in Backhouse Park with my telescope and eat this editorial in public. Because if I'm wrong, it will be a monumental day for Planet Earth.

Before we delve into the murky stories surrounding this particular comet, let us look at the facts about comets.

Comets are often referred to as "dirty snowballs". A comet is made up of dust and frozen gases and they form in the icy blackness between the stars. Periodically, collisions and gravitational forces cause one of these icy lumps, between a few metres and several kilometres across, to slowly fall under gravity towards their nearest star. For most of this journey, the comet remains just a frozen lump, but when the comet gets within the orbit of Jupiter, the heat of the Sun really starts to take effect: the comet starts to melt and boil, the frozen water and gases turning into a misty cloud that hides the nucleus of the comet. As the comet gets closer to the Sun, the heat and light pressure increases and the comet leaves a long tail behind it. If the comet is big, as Hale-Bopp is, and it comes close enough to the Earth, we are treated to the appearance of a "hairy star" in the night sky. Many comets are found each year, but are too faint to be seen without telescopes. Some of them fall into the Sun and are destroyed. Others travel around the Sun and are flung back out into deep space, never to return. Others, like Comet Halley, are trapped into orbits around the Sun and reappear every few years - every 76 years in the case of Comet Halley. With each return, more gas and dust is released and the comet gets fainter, eventually to burn out and crumble.

Since comets can appear anytime and from anywhere, they are usually found by amateurs scanning the skies. The professionals who use the big observatories have to submit research proposals months in advance to use the telescopes, which is why amateurs often make the discoveries. Last year we saw various UFO magazines questioning the discovery of Hyakutake by a Japanese amateur with binoculars: Why didn't the big observatories find it first? Was there a cover up? (Implying that the answer was "yes".) Did the military know about it? Oh come on, why would the military care? A comet is simply a cosmic snowball, with no defence significance (providing that it isn't heading directly for us). Comets don't have enough mass to affect the orbits of the planets, but certainly leave a nasty crater if they make a direct impact, which is why astronomers and the military are currently interested in setting up automated projects to locate potential Earth crossing asteroids and assess the dangers.

When this comet was discovered by Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp in 1995 it was already 250 times brighter than Halley's Comet was at the same distance from the Sun. It is bigger than Halley's comet, with a nucleus estimated at 40 kilometres across and with much more gas and dust to release. This is why the comet was detected so early, and so far out from the Sun.

The Saga of the Saturn Like Object.

On the evening of the 14th November last year, an amateur astronomer named Chuck Schramek from Houston, Texas, took an electronic photograph of Hale Bopp using his ten inch telescope and a CCD camera. Before going out to observe, Mr Schramek uses a computer programme called MegaStar to plot exactly what objects should be in the field of view when he takes CCD images of the sky. Over a thirty minute period he took over 100 CCD images which revealed two stars close to the object - identified on his computer as the stars GSC 5086:367 (magnitude 15.1) and GSC 5086:161 (magnitude 14.6) - and another object he couldn't identify. It was brighter than the other stars, and appeared to have "spikes" radiating from it, making it appear like the ringed planet Saturn. Since the object didn't move relative to the Comet throughout the exposures, Schramek believed the Saturn Like Object (or SLO) to be something associated with the comet and moving with it. Knowing its brightness and how far Hale Bopp was from us, he calculated the size of the SLO, which came out around three times the size of the Earth.

Excited, he contacted a radio station and a radio sensationalist named Art Bell put him on the air later that night. The story then got onto the Internet and soon everyone started to hear about the Saturn Like Object.

Unfortunately, Schramek had been fooled by his computer programme. The mystery object has been positively identified as the ninth magnitude star SAO 141894, which did not show up on his computer map because of the specific settings he used to cut off brighter objects. The star appears clearly on the Digital Sky Survey and other atlases. The spikes are a diffraction effect, possibly caused by dew on the corrector lens at the front of the telescope.

As you might expect, the story continues to persist, being somewhat more exciting than the truth. The SLO has featured heavily in Whitley Strieber's website, with headlines like: **GIGANTIC OBJECT CONFIRMED FOLLOWING HALE-BOPP. APPEARS TO BE SHIP LARGER THAN EARTH.** Wrote Strieber on the 27th November, "The object is there, and it is not a natural object. It suggests awesome technological capabilities on the part of its creators. The reason for its presence in our solar system is as unknown as the identity of those creators" and "Obviously, we are not in any way able to affect their activities. Should they be hostile to us, we must bear their actions". Having met Whitley Strieber, and found him to be a sensible, well balanced individual, I can only guess that he went to see Independence Day one time too many.

Another image of Hale Bopp was posted onto the Web by the Japanese Naval Observatory. This one showed an object near to the comet with a large conical protrusion. The image was removed from the website, the Observatory stating that the object was the 8th magnitude star SAO 162944 and the spike merely an artefact of the CCD imaging system.

According to Strieber on the 2nd December, "The Royal Observatory at Greenwich confirmed on December 2, 1996, that there was an anomalous object near Hale-Bopp, but offered no opinion about what it might be."

Radio messages.

He also states that "Modulated radio emissions from the object have been picked up by radio telescopes, and there has been some speculation by those who have listened to them that two specific messages are involved. One has been thought to be an announcement of the presence of the object, and the other a warning that there is radiation in its proximity."

This last gem appears to have come from Courtney Brown and the Farsight Institute of remote viewers, following the Sky and Telescope news bulletin of 29th November. The news bulletin simply said that "In mid-November, radio observations showed that each second the comet's nucleus was pumping some 30 tons of water into space and another 6 of carbon monoxide." Presumably someone took this to mean that the comet was emitting radio waves, and that there was a message in it. Oh dear.

Despite promises by Courtney Brown on the Art Bell show that a top professional astronomer was going to publicly say that a companion to Hale Bopp, the "Hale Mary", existed, and reveal definitive photographs of the object, no-one has ever come

forwards. Almost certainly because s/he doesn't exist. Hale Bopp has exhibited some features, being a large comet pieces have broken off and many gas jets have been seen emitting from the solid nucleus. It makes for exciting observing and research, but none of these features indicate alien interference.

New Pictures.

The latest episode in this saga involves new CCD photographs that were posted on the Art Bell and Whitley Strieber web sites, allegedly from the mysterious Anonymous Astronomer, revealing the object. However, and full credit to Strieber and Bell, they quickly withdrew support for the images. Why? They were recognised by David Tholen, an astronomer. He had taken the images using the University of Hawaii's 2.24 metre telescope on the 31st August 1996, and the originals do not show a companion at all. Obviously the Hale Mary had been added later, by someone desperate to bolster the companion theory.

As Hale Bopp gets nearer and brighter, the evidence for a Death Star type companion object 3 or 4 times the size of Earth becomes less and less convincing. Nevertheless, I fully expect this story to run and run. How many people out there have ever seen a comet through a telescope? How many will make the effort to see Hale Bopp with their own eyes? Perhaps this controversy will encourage more people to look for the comet for themselves, and learn at first hand about the Universe we live in. In which case some good will have come out of it.

For those with an internet connection, images and more details on the companion can be found at Russell Sipe's official Hale Bopp web site: <http://www.halebopp.com/tocmap.htm>

Here is the opinion of Alan Hale, the co-discoverer of the comet. He said, "as the readers might expect, I've been following the comet on a pretty regular basis, and I have not noticed anything unusual about or around it.

"There are many 'fringe' people who are trying to attach apocalyptic significance to Comet Hale-Bopp, and incidents like this one by Schramek are sure to increase as we get closer to the comet's perihelion [Closest approach to the Sun]. I ask readers to treat all these irresponsible reports with the disdain they deserve, and instead enjoy the beauty of the comet for its own sake."

Comet scares through history.

This latest comet fever is not without a pedigree. Throughout history, the appearance of "hairy stars" has been connected with disasters, epidemics and times of change. Perhaps it harks back to prehistoric times, when the appearance of a comet coincided with a great disaster, or even a collision with a comet (along the lines of the Tunguska explosion) and the fear has lingered. In historical times, Halley's comet makes an appearance in the Bayeux Tapestry, which records the Norman conquest of Britain in the 11th Century. The Aztec ruler Montezuma and his people watched a comet whose arrival "predicted" his defeat at the hands of Cortes.

The appearance of Halley's Comet in 1910 has an interesting story attached to it. Some people were afraid that it would collide with the Earth, but most of the panic was caused by the comet's tail. On the 6th February 1910, astronomers at Yerkes Observatory pointed their telescopes at the comet and used a spectroscope to break down the light and discover what it was made of. One of the substances they found, albeit in minute quantities, was cyanogen. When combined with hydrogen this produces hydrogen cyanide, an exceedingly poisonous substance. Most astronomers decided that although the Earth was passing directly through the comet's tail on 18th May, the cyanogen would have no effect upon life on Earth. Despite this being broadcast as wide as possible, there was a certain amount of panic among the population, largely because of one man: the French astronomer, Camille Flammarion. "The cyanogen gas would impregnate the atmosphere and possibly snuff out all life on the planet" he said. He made the headlines in the Los Angeles Times Sunday magazine: "We may die laughing when the comet comes". Flammarion was the first major populariser of Astronomy, writing a large number of books. He was also interested in life after death and spiritualism and wrote voluminously on the topics. Comets held a fascination for Flammarion and his story "The End of the World" appeared in a scientific magazine in 1894 and later appeared in a book. It dealt with the destruction of the world by a comet. He was severely criticised by fellow scientists, but then as

now, people love a good panic. The New York Times for 17th May 1910 reported on the comet panic in Chicago:

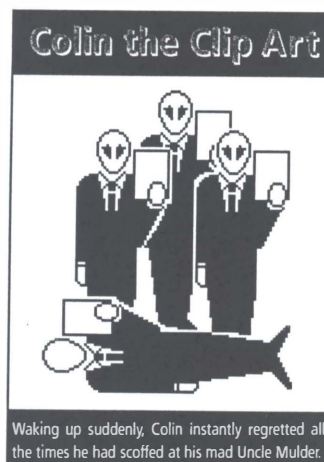
"Terror occasioned by the near approach of Halley's Comet has seized hold of a large part of the population of Chicago. Especially the feminine portion succumbed. All else is forgotten. Comets and their ways and habits have been the principal topic discussed in the streets, cars, and elevated trains today."

The newspaper interviewed one woman: "I have stopped up all the windows and doors in my flat to keep the gas out. All the other women in the building think it is a good thing and all are doing the same. Do you think it will keep out the gas?" No. But luckily, and as predicted, nothing happened.

We now live in an age where city lights drown out most of the stars. People are no longer aware of the stars, planets and visitors like comets. But interest is high in extraterrestrials, UFOs and X-Files style government conspiracies. Is it any surprise that this latest comet, coming as it does near the end of the millennium, has spawned a popular story about a giant spaceship and government cover up? Call it pre-millennial tension if you will. I have little doubt that Courtney Brown and Chuck Schramek are as wrong now as Flammarion was in 1910.

One final point. In this particular case of the Hale-Mary, it is the professional astronomical community that are being pointed at as being part of the "government conspiracy" to conceal the "truth" about Hale Bopp. The accusers obviously don't know much about astronomers. It seems that if you don't agree with the latest crackpot theory, you automatically become part of the government's machinery of silence.

But then, I work for the DSS, so I would say that.



NEWS

Clyde Tombaugh 1906 - 1997

Clyde Tombaugh was the young American astronomer who made history in 1930 when he discovered the tiny world of Pluto, the most distant planet in the Solar System. At the time he had just turned 24 and was working as a poorly paid researcher at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. His discovery earned him a \$10 pay rise, and a scholarship at the University of Kansas, where he took a degree. In 1943 he became an instructor at Arizona State College, and left to work at the White Sands missile range in 1946. In 1955 he moved to New Mexico State University and retired in 1973. Since then he had been living quietly in Las Cruces, New Mexico with his wife of more than 60 years, Patsy. During his lifetime of observing he also discovered a comet, a globular star cluster, five superclusters of galaxies and 775 asteroids, one of which bears his name. He wrote several books, including *Out of the Darkness: The Planet Pluto* with Patrick Moore. Clyde would have been 91 on the 4th February.

Carl E. Sagan 1934 - 1996

Carl Sagan, Professor of Astronomy at Cornell University, died on the 20th December from pneumonia at the age of 62. He had

been fighting a two year battle with a bone marrow disease called myelodysplasia. Well known for his TV series "Cosmos", Sagan was the author of many books and he was finishing the second edition of his book "Comet" with his wife, Ann, at the time of his death. His major interests were in planetary exploration and the search for life in the universe.

MICHAEL KNIGHTON IN UFO ENCOUNTER

It was revealed in the Carlisle News and Star newspaper, and picked up later by national newspapers, that the Chairman of Carlisle United Football Club had a strange UFO experience in 1977. He was driving along the M62 with his wife, Rosemary, when strange lights were observed in the sky. He said, "The bright dot became a triangle and shot down from the sky at an incredible speed. It then turned into a glowing disc which hovered above a petrol station at about the height of Nelson's Column. It was amazing." After being observed for around half an hour, the object sped off and he heard a voice inside his head: "Michael, don't be afraid". Knighton said, "I was so excited. It was just the most incredible experience. For seven years after that I spent time UFO spotting. I just wish I could come in contact again."

Knighton threatened to resign his position after the details of his sighting became known, fearing no-one would take him seriously. The editor of the Carlisle News and Star started a campaign to keep Mr Knighton at Carlisle, saying "He has done a lot for the city and the club."

WATER FOUND ON THE MOON?

In December a team of NASA and Defence scientists revealed that water ice may exist at the South Pole of the Moon. The Clementine lunar probe, launched by the US military's Ballistic Missile Defence Organisation, aimed radar signals at areas of the Moon and the reflections were picked up on Earth. The results from the North Pole were normal, but the strength and polarisation of the reflected signal from the South Pole's Aitkin Basin, may indicate a lake of frozen water. At the South Pole 15,000 square kilometres are never exposed to sunlight, and water from comets may have become trapped there by the intense cold (-230 degrees Centigrade). In sunlit areas the daytime temperature reaches 100 or more degrees, boiling water off into space.

It is hoped that this supply of water will reduce the cost of lunar exploration and help the development of a permanent lunar base.

COMET HALE BOPP

For the last few weeks Comet Hale Bopp has been travelling around the far side of the Sun as seen from Earth, preventing us from observing it. It has now re-emerged in the morning sky, in the constellation of Aquila, at a magnitude of around 2.7 which makes it easily visible to the naked eye. It is expected to brighten as it moves across the sky, reaching its maximum height around the 24th March when it will be above the well known Andromeda galaxy in the northern sky. Unfounded rumours of "companion" objects and strange radio messages from the comet continue to circulate (see Editorial).

SUPERNOVA DISCOVERED BY BRITON

On Thursday 24th October 1996, Supernova 1996bo was spotted by Mark Armstrong, who is a 38 year old unemployed civil servant from Rolvenden in Kent. He is the head of the UK Nova/Supernova Patrol group, and the first British astronomer, amateur or professional, to discover a Supernova. The exploding star lies in the distant galaxy called NGC 673.

UFO SIGHTINGS IN BRITAIN

On Thursday, December 26, 1996, two police officers pursued a UFO in their cruiser near Britain's North Sea coast. Sgt. Steve King and PC Andy Collier of the Norfolk police were on routine patrol along the shore when they spotted "strange lights in the sky." The officers chased the object for ten miles until it "accelerated and flew away over the North Sea" at Holt, Norfolk.

The Norfolk police phoned the airport at Norwich and learned that "no flights were in the vicinity."

Police at Fakenham, Norfolk received 30 calls that night from people claiming to have seen the UFO.

Britain's Ministry of Defence (MoD) dismissed the officers' report, claiming that the UFO was merely "a combination of the 200-foot Boston Stump (cathedral) and an electrical storm." (See the Daily Mirror for December 26, 1996)

On Thursday, December 12, a man reported "bright orange lights" over Shaftsbury. The lights "grew in size" and then "disappeared suddenly as they dipped down towards the town."

On November 21, at 10 p.m., a motorist returning from Birmingham on Highway M54 "saw a bright green star descend vertically on the horizon in the direction of Shrewsbury." As he drove onto the A5, he encountered a roadblock and was diverted down A455 East. While on this road, he saw mysterious "extremely bright blue-white flashes" on the horizon at Shrewsbury.

COLOMBIAN AIRMAN VIDEOTAPES SIX UFOs

TV viewers in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, were stunned Sunday evening, December 22, 1996, when station NTC broadcast a video showing six glowing discoidal UFOs in flight over the city.

The "objetos voladores" were filmed on Friday morning, December 13, by Corporal Juan Carlos Morales of the Fuerza Aerea Colombiana (FAC).

Corporal Morales was aboard a Transport Command multi-engined plane, flying over the Cordillera Central, when he happened to glance out the window.

Looking toward Mount Monserrate (2,500 feet or 810 meters), Corporal Morales spotted six silvery self-luminous discs emerging from a cloud. The discs were flying in two separate rows, heading for Bogota. Grabbing his videocamera, he began shooting footage. The UFOs passed over the Avenida Jimenez de Quesada and the Plaza de Toros de Santa Maria, heading in a northeasterly direction.

Major Gonzalo Cardenas, chief of the FAC Transport Command, told NTC that the UFOs were not captured on radar by the air force traffic control center at El Dorado International Airport. (See the newspaper Correo de Povo of Porto Alegre, Brazil for December 23, 1996.)

(Muchas gracias to our friend Castagni for this story.)

NEW SIGHTING IN SAO PAULO STATE

About ten days after the Bogota overflight, there was another UFO sighting in the state of Sao Paulo, in south-eastern Brazil.

The sighting took place on or about Monday, December 23, 1996 in the city of Santo Andre (population 1.1 million), which is 30 kilometres (19 miles) south-east of Sao Paulo. Santo Andre, together with Sao Caetano do Sul and Sao Bernardo, forms the heart of Brazil's automotive industry.

Jacinta Fagundes de Mello, who lives in a high-rise apartment building in Santo Andre, stepped onto her balcony and saw "a strange balloon with bright blinking lights underneath, like small fireworks."

At first Jacinta thought it was a balloon sent aloft by a neighborhood "festa." Grabbing a pair of Zeiss binoculars, she looked again and "saw a huge shadowy shape above the lights. I realised that it was not a balloon at all."

She went to get her boyfriend, urging him to look through the binoculars. He did and let out a shout. Immediately afterward, the UFO "increased its speed from about motionless to an overwhelming velocity. At the same time, we saw a falling star on the horizon, and another, very close, the size of a plane that came over the neighbouring apartment building and disappeared behind the residential complex."

(Muito obrigado to Brazilian ufologist Sergio Graciotti for this story.)

DEAD ALIEN STIRS CONTROVERSY IN ISRAEL

The reported "dead alien" found at Kibbutz Achihod near Ahyud on December 22, 1996 continues to make headlines in Israel.

On Monday, December 30, the Biological Facility of Haifa's Technion Institute announced the results of its analysis of the 5 centimetre tall humanoid cadaver found by Mrs. Zyona Damti, 34, beside her father-in-law's barn. According to the newspaper Yediot

Ahronot, spokesmen for the institute said "they were not given enough material for the team to conduct proper tests" but announced anyway that the material was "cow manure."

In appearances on Israeli television Channels One and Two, ufologists Debby Segal and Uriah Shai, who are representing the Damti family, disputed the findings. Shai was asked why he had reportedly refused to give all of the material to the Technion Institute, retaining two millimetres for the Damti family.

The following day, Tuesday, December 31, in an interview with Maariv, distinguished scientist Dr. Noah Brosch reportedly dismissed the "humanoid" and all of UFOlogy as "a hoax."

This did not halt the UFO furore in Israel. By Saturday night, January 4, 1997, talk show lines were buzzing with the latest rumour. A prediction, attributed by some to Israeli psychic Uri Geller, claimed that giant saucers would appear over Tel Aviv and two other locations in Israel after sunset on January 5.

On Saturday night, December 21, 1996, residents of Ahyud, a village just outside the city of Akko in northern Israel called the police to report "luminescent blue disks" flying over their farms. At 11 p.m., Mrs. Zyona Damti, 34, looked out a window and saw "an alien" standing in front of her father-in-law's barn. She described the entity as 20 centimeters tall and "humanoid: head, trunk, two arms, small hands, two large black eyes. The colour was greenish, the umbilicus was clearly visible." Mrs. Damti told her father-in-law what she had seen, but he replied that "it was nothing."

At 8 a.m. the following morning, December 22, Mrs. Damti went outside and found the entity lying on the ground in a large pool of "green liquid." She called the police. Responding to the call were Officer Asher Ben Ezra and his partner. Shortly after the officers confirmed the claim, over 50 Israeli journalists converged on the scene.

Barry Chamish, who covered the incident for Israel's Magazin 2000, interviewed Yisrael Damti, Zyona's husband, who said, "You'd better hurry. The body is disintegrating quickly. Most of the head has melted away."

The Damtis put the body in their freezer to halt decomposition. By that time, the remains had shrunk from 20 to 5 centimeters. At 2 p.m., the remains were taken to Technion University in Haifa.

Also on the scene was renowned psychic Uri Geller, who reportedly suggested that the Damtis call in NASA. Despite many requests from the media, Yisrael Damti allegedly refused to permit the entity to be photographed before the autopsy began at the university.

Not everyone believes the remains to be those of an extraterrestrial. Dr. Fischman told Barry Chamish, "What you have here is a lizard which hatched too early. It is covered in a multi-layered gelatinous sac. When it shed the sac, it left amniotic fluid" all over the ground.

Doron Rotem, who investigated the case for the Israeli Association for UFO Studies, said he believed the remains to be the embryo of "a chameleon or a salamander."

The case received a big play in the Israeli media, with TV coverage on Channels 1 and 2 and hourly broadcasts on the Galei Zahal (Israeli Armed Forces Radio). As a result, more people came forward with UFO stories.

A farmer in Ahyud said aliens had stolen 18 of his sheep the night of December 21.

In the nearby Arab town of Tamra, an Arab shepherd reported that his sheep had been stolen, too.
(See the following Israeli newspapers for December 24, 1996: Maariv, the Jerusalem Post and Yediot Achronoyt. Many thanks to Dr. Leon Liebrecht and Barry Chamish for this story.)
[Thanks to the excellent UFO Round-up for the above few articles - Ed.]

ALIEN INSURANCE PAYS OFF

by David Walmsey in London

In true X-Files style, an electrician claims he was lifted from the ground and knocked unconscious by a UFO near London. He is apparently to be paid \$2 million by insurers who covered him against abduction by aliens. Industry sources, however, are

suggesting that the payout could, just possibly, be an out-of-this-world publicity stunt.

The story starts on October 8 when Joseph Carpenter, 23, of North London, claims he was struck down by a mystery light at Swindon. The area is a "hot spot" for such phenomena, says Mr Carpenter, who runs a UFO hunting group called the Majestic Twelve.

"On the evening in question, an intense beam of light, like a police helicopter, had me," he said. "The anti-gravity force within it lifted me above the ground. I passed out as I went directly into it. All this was captured on film."

By an amazing stroke of luck, Mr Carpenter had paid \$205 for cover against such an eventuality to a company called GRIP, run by insurance broker Simon Burgess.

Mr Carpenter was able to produce "compelling evidence" of his ordeal, including camcorder footage, witnesses and DNA samples taken from what he said was a claw found at the scene.

Mr Burgess said last night: "The work on the DNA sample was carried out by a research fellow at Cambridge University -- I can't give you the name. But the work proved conclusively that the sample was something that had never been seen before and which was not of this Earth."

Mr Burgess says Mr Carpenter was expected to receive his \$2 million yesterday at a London hotel from Scully herself, X-Files star Gillian Anderson. The broker, described by one industry source as "an unhelpful maverick", is believed to have made a deal with a Sunday paper for exclusive coverage of the presentation.

Industry insiders say he is almost certain to make a profit from Mr Carpenter's claim. One said: "If he plays his cards right, he will claw the money back by wisely selling the world rights of the video evidence to TV companies. If he co-wrote a book using the evidence, the money would also roll in."

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POSSIBLE UFO/AIRPLANE COLLISION

BEIJING, The Reuters World Service via Individual Inc. : A Chinese passenger plane was forced to make an emergency landing after the exterior glass of the cockpit window was cracked by an unidentified flying object at 9,600 metres (31,500 feet), the Yangcheng Evening News said.

The object collided with the Boeing 757-200 passenger plane on December 19 on a flight from Beijing to Wuhan, capital of central Hubei province, an edition of the newspaper seen in Beijing on Wednesday said.

The plane belonging to a Hubei subsidiary of China's Southern Airlines made a successful emergency landing at Beijing's Capital International Airport, it said but did not elaborate.

Company officials reached by telephone declined to give further details. REUTERS.

Local UFO Meetings: NEUFORM

The Gateshead based NEUFORM (North East UFO Reporters Magazine) group is now holding regular meetings at the Barley Mow public house (near Tesco) in Gateshead. Meetings start at 7.30pm on the final Wednesday in each month. The group produces the magazine from which its name derives, and hopes to arrange regular, organised sky watches and trips to conferences. Details are available via the editor.

If anyone has some UFO group news that they want broadcasting, write in to Strange Daze and we'll give you a plug.

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND by Gloria Dixon

With media coverage of UFO sightings and the mysterious universe in which we live still at an all time high, I think this would be an ideal time to address the issue of UFOlogy and our ever evolving relationship with the media. I feel that we as ufologists or

interested parties have courted the press and media for so long to take us seriously or at least to contribute in bringing our questions to the general public and scientific community, that now we have this level of interest we are not sure how to react, and when we do we find that often we have only minimal control on what is said on behalf of the subject and UFO organizations. Furthermore, the media brings along its own speculation, which attracts every ultra theory into the open...so clouding concerted research even more. We now have a monster of imagery and coverage that would be a minefield for anyone researching any subject, much less a subject so immensely personal and open to individualism as UFOlogy. BUT, we can't have it both ways, and we must continue to be objective, professional and observant whilst attempting to harness the press and media to enable this subject to go forward and show the public and scientific community that there are compelling phenomena here NOW, that need to be examined and studied by professional bodies, as well as the voluntary, predominantly under funded organizations that presently conduct dedicated research. With the imagery that is now captivating the imagination of mankind we have to ask what UFO organizations are actually researching in the climate of UFOlogy today. Where do we fit ...where do the boundaries lie? Gone are the days of coffee table meetings and A4 fly sheets. Look on the newsstands, look at us here in 1997!.... this is now multimedia and high profile. This is media UFOlogy whether we like it or not in the 90s and we have to move with it, not fight it. The thing to remember is that we are only at the tip of an iceberg and we must not lose sight of our objectives and start believing what we read all the time.

The question is are we here as people who have interests in UFOlogy ...with all of its facetsOR are we here as people who use the popularity of UFOs to look for.....government conspiracies, or to enhance our knowledge of secret military installations. These are fine objectives, but are now clouding the issue. We all know of stealth technology and the Nighthawk, the rumours of the Aurora project, wave planes, UAVs NASA, Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas.

I am not stating that all triangular reports are stealth technology, I am just stating that only two Air Forces in the world have pilots who fly these planes, the United States and Britain, where indeed most reports come from. Witness reports of "very low rumbling" or "swishing sounds overhead" can be logged as engine coolers or sound diffusers from these planes, and "*triangles hovering in the sky before shooting off*" can be observed if any plane slows from a high speed to a low speed and banks, especially in fading light or dark conditions. With this information, can we not integrate this into investigative procedures as we always have done in the past without any fuss, or do we now, thanks partly to media and the frenzy for copy that ensues, have to state that conspiracies abound and alien technology built these craft? Do we have to forfeit other reports and logic to please the press?

A concern that I have is that because of the massive attention now focused on the subject of UFOlogy more and more theories are being aired and accepted which are often based on the individual beliefs of the researchers studying this phenomenon. These ideas and theories are influencing and setting the pace for the media, the public and many of the witnesses. We need to be utterly objective and to stand back and digest the truly extraordinary sightings that have indeed been observed by ordinary people, and in so doing explore our understanding of what questions we *should* be asking, in order to find a way to address the real issues of this still elusive phenomenon. I would like to quote from an article in **UFO TIMES** by Richard Cutting reporting on Dr. Jacques Vallee's lecture at a Conference in the USA in 1995, which I believe illustrates exactly where we are today. Dr. Vallee says....:

"There is no credible ongoing effort scientifically to come to grips with the underlying UFO phenomenon, which I continue to believe is real and informed - but perhaps not for today's science. But certainly for tomorrow's science and for the future of consciousness. I continue to hope that someday we will be able to sort out the signal from the noise and to get to work on the real UFO phenomenon".

I could not agree more!!

And so on to the sighting reports. There has certainly been plenty of activity during 1996 particularly with reports of triangular shaped objects, sightings of which are being reported in many areas of the UK. Taking into consideration the fact that it is rumoured that British Aerospace has a £100 million budget, and that many of the triangular objects sightings along the Lancashire coast are possibly a prototype UAV which is operating out of Warton, I would like to document below three very interesting sightings reported to BUFORA.

LOCATION: Swindon, Wiltshire

Date: 25th July 1996

HC was looking out of her window of her bedroom, which has two skylights due to a loft conversion. It was 2.00am and she saw a diamond formation of between 12-16 triangles fly past her window. She describes these as flying in front of the house rather than above. She jumped out of bed and opened the window in order to be sure they were not reflections of something else and called to her husband. As she watched the triangles changed flying formation four times and she describes them as being silver grey with no lights and no sound. The sky was without a cloud and she says they flew at a constant steady speed and appeared to be only slightly higher than a new Iceland single storey warehouse unit. Significant features here are that Swindon is in the vicinity of three military air bases, RAF Wroughton, Lyneham and Fairford. Please contact me via the NUFORI postal address if anyone else witnessed these objects on the night in question.

Location: Whitley Bay, North Tyneside.

Date: 18th November 1996

CW was out walking his dog at 5.50pm, when he observed an aircraft travelling east but then saw what he described as an almost stationary grouping of lights due North. At first he thought it was a helicopter, but this group of lights moved very slowly and almost silently and he felt them to be very unusual. He describes that as they appeared directly overhead, the lights became a distinctive V shape which appeared to be at the front of a massive black triangular object with lights at the top. His estimation of the size of this object was 'enormous, the size of many football pitches' and he estimates the height to be about ½ mile high and speed to be only 30 to 50 km/h. The object continued south and CW noticed what appeared to be massive underbelly engine thrusters. On 4th December there was another sighting of a huge triangular object observed by someone driving on the A1 towards Newcastle upon Tyne and also another sighting of something similar witnessed from Haddington in Scotland.

As far as I am able to determine at the moment from a contact at Newcastle Airport, there had been a military exercise around this time and the primary witness may have been observing a midair refuelling exercise with a tanker and military jets. This could look very unusual to the observer and as they would all bank at the same time this would make it appear as though they were observing a very large object. Mid-air refuelling exercises can be the cause of witnesses describing objects in the sky as big as a football pitches and sometimes a stadium!!

Location: M54, Near Woverhampton

Date: 4th December 1996

MN and CN were driving on the M54 at 8.45pm when they observed 6-7 starlike objects moving in a strange way very fast with a zig zag movement. At the same time they observed an object which appeared to be above RAF Cosford. They describe this as like a vertical pencil all lit up. They then became aware of an object moving across the motorway very slowly. They describe the object as triangular with two green lights and one blue light at the tips and a steady large light in the centre. At this point feeling very apprehensive they stopped on the hard shoulder where they observed a matt black triangular object, the size of a Boeing 747 very low, only 50 feet above them (height would be difficult to judge). There was no noise. It hovered for several seconds above them and then moved away, where it disappeared out of sight. The weather was described as clear and cloudless.

Upon returning home both men became ill, one with severe vomiting and the other with constant nausea and persistent tiredness and feeling drained. CN also experienced two incidents of

awakening and feeling as though he was being choked. This apparently went on for a couple of weeks. Neither of them attended their GP and appeared to believe that their physically feeling so unwell was related somehow to their sighting. MN also started to have a specific recurring dream, the content of which has made him extremely uneasy and puzzled. Because of this he has asked that I check whether indeed this dream has any basis in reality, in that it may match an incident that has occurred or will occur near Runcorn in Cheshire.

The following morning MN called RAF Cosford to report their sightings, and another significant feature occurred on the 17th December when MN was contacted by some officials, whom he presumed were from RAF Cosford, although he claims they did not identify themselves. They wanted to know the details of their sighting on 4th December. An hour later on the same day, he received yet another phone call from officials, whom he again assumed to be from RAF Cosford, asking him to relay details of his sighting. Please contact BUFORA if anyone else had similar sightings on 4th December last year.

Location: Hethersgill, Cumbria

Date: 1st January 1993

Taxi driver Liz H. was driving her father's taxi. It was about 1.30am and she had just dropped off some passengers at their home near Hethersgill village between Longtown and Brampton. She turned the taxi around and was heading back towards the main road to Brampton, when her car CB became really crackly, and she was unable to hear her sister 'Helena' on the radio. Suddenly the car just came to a standstill, the lights went out and the CB radio went dead. She felt very angry that on the busiest night of the year the taxi had broken down, and got out of the car to walk back towards the house where she had dropped off her passengers. Liz describes the weather as clear and she was able to see without the use of a torch, which may indicate there was a full or nearly fully moon [The moon was not above the horizon at the time of this sighting - Ed.] when without warning a brilliant ball of white light appeared to come up from the rear of the taxi. Liz describes it as about one foot in diameter. It hovered in front of her about and then moved upwards above the roof of the taxi and hovered there. She did not feel frightened, but said she felt fascinated and drawn to this light *as though she was being observed in some way*. It then just shot away extremely fast and moved towards Longtown. Feeling totally amazed, Liz got back into the taxi and tried the ignition, but the car suddenly jumped forward and the lights came back on and she really had a shock when the CB radio boomed out to her, because she had fully turned up the volume, when it had become crackly, prior to her sighting. The car was also still in gear and it then jumped forward, which was when Liz became scared. Liz's sister was shouting her name and asked where Liz had been for the last half an hour. Liz was surprised by this as she felt she had only been out of her car for five to ten minutes. She told her sister that she had seen a 'shooting star', her only frame of reference for this sighting, and because they were so busy she didn't discuss it any further until New Year's Day when Helena told Liz that there had been a reported sighting of a UFO near Dumfries.

There have been further sightings reported from this area by Liz's father, mentioned in the above report. Details as follows.

Location: Hallbank Gate, Near Brampton, Cumbria

Date: 23rd November 1996

David L, a taxi driver from Brampton was making several journeys from a local pub in Talkin Village picking up passengers to take them home. At approximately 1 am he was driving three passengers home from the pub to Hallbank Gate, when they observed a large green ball of light with a white light around it which appeared to drop from the sky and hover within some trees at a nearby farm. After DL had dropped his passengers off he returned to the pub for some more passengers and was taking the same route as before. It was approximately 1.40 am by this time and as they came up the hill towards Hallbank Gate (a very remote area), DL observed a tall figure emerging from a field gate on his right hand side. He described the figure as being in a silver suit with 'something' on his head, and what appeared to be a 'white sheet' in front of him which he was not holding, but seemed to be

stuck to his hands. Both DL and his two passengers were extremely frightened and did not stop, but drove straight on up the hill. They observed this figure about 100 yards past the area where DL had observed the light on his previous trip. According to two people, this light had been observed before and apparently there have been some strange sightings and incidents around the area witnessed by local people. Geographical features around this area are Spadeadam, where there is land owned by MOD and military testing takes place in a similar vein as the Otterburn range at Keilder.

Location: Sheffield, South Yorkshire

Date: Summer 1972

Still on the subject of unusual light phenomena, a letter came to BUFORA in 1996, in which CD told us of a very strange experience during the summer of 1972; many years ago, I realise, but important all the same.

CD was staying at a friend's house one August night for a get together with some friends. She was in the kitchen when there was a knock at the door. Upon opening the door there was no-one there, but she could plainly hear footsteps going around to the back of the house and followed them around the house ending up back at the front door. There was no-one there. She looked around and then for some reason up at the sky where she observed two huge bright lights, a long way off in the distance. The two lights then separated and one veered off and disappeared. The other one came to the other side of the road where she was standing and appeared to position itself above a tree. CD describes the ground and everything around it, trees, flowers and bushes as *shimmering* as though there was lots of heat, but the weather was not hot. She felt a vibration in the pit of her stomach and felt very light and things seemed to be distant and *'dreamlike'* and her skin felt *'tickly'*. She called to her friends to come and have a look, some were already at the front door. She describes them all as being *very quiet*. CD goes on and I would like to quote from her letter.

'I felt so very drawn to the light, I can't explain it. I was not in the slightest bit afraid. I felt so at ease, peaceful, happy. Then I started to walk towards the light. I cannot explain the strength of the need to get closer to the light, but someone behind me, held me back, and I felt so disappointed!'

A short while later the light moved upwards above the tree and then followed the same direction of the other light. They all went back into the house. CD felt a bit strange and light headed, but that is all. The following day, The Sheffield Star reported countless sightings of UFOs all over Sheffield.

An interesting footnote here is that CD says that after this sighting she developed *abilities* which she never had before and she is unable to explain. She describes these as *dreams, feelings, things she can sense with her hands and over which she has no control*, which appeared to begin after her encounter.

Location: Plelo, Nr. St. Breve, France

Date: 4th June 1995

Inv. Andy Rayner (a BUFORA RIC)

At 00.35 on Sunday 4th June 96 an English couple and three teenage children left a restaurant outside the French village of Plelo to return to the holiday farmhouse they had rented which was 12 kilometres away at the other side of the village. After driving 6km they all realised that they were all focusing on the same circle of green lights which was quite apparent in the top centre of the windscreen. At this point they realised that the lights were not in front of the car, but they were in fact looking at a reflection in the windscreen. As the husband lent forward to see above the car he observed a huge solid object above. He parked the car and then found the object appeared to be about 40 metres away to the rear of the car. He describes the green lights on the underside as spinning, with other lights on the upper part of the object. They felt the size of the object to be that of a large detached house hovering 20 metres above the road. Another car came towards them and it had to slow down to pass them on the single lane road. The family then observed the object becoming almost transparent, and then became solid again. It appeared that the people in the other car did not observe anything. The observation lasted about six minutes at

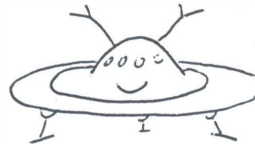
which point the object shot away. The family were upset and puzzled by this time and drove back to the village to find the other car driver. Although the village was still busy they spoke with no one, and after several minutes set off again to their holiday home. Upon leaving the village the object appeared again behind the car and then moved into a field to the right of them where it hovered about 10 to 15 metres above the ground. They stopped the car and husband and wife walked through a shallow ditch and into the field towards the object. One of their children, who was still in the car was quite hysterical and the others stood by the car shouting for their parents to come back. The husband described the object as being about 60 metres away and when he looked up he realised that what he had seen was only the main body of the object and there appeared to be a leading edge which was right above their head. This seemed to bring the husband 'back to reality' and he felt afraid and pulled his wife back to the car. This fear and need to escape followed feelings of euphoria. They jumped back into their car and set off at high speed toward home. The object proceeded to follow the car back to their farmhouse and they all sat in the car too afraid to get out. When they finally did so the object had gone.

Under normal conditions this journey should have taken only 15 minutes from the time they left the restaurant at 12.30am. Upon entering the farmhouse they found the time was 2.30am. They took

into account all the time they had stopped and their time in the village, but find that even with this in mind they cannot account for an hour of time.

Andy is following up this report, and would like to ascertain whether there were any further sightings from this area of France. Please write to me at NUFORI if anyone else is aware of any other incidents at that time. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Andy for this report.

I would like to conclude these case reports by extending my appreciation and thanks to my colleague and friend Paul Cabby for his invaluable contribution with the on-going Brampton investigations, and indeed everything UFO wise!! I would also like to thank Kevin Osborne for all his help, advice and support during 1996.



Heart of Darkness by David Sivier. Xenophobia, Racism and Fascism in UFOlogy. Part One: Genesis of Evil.

This is the first part of a two part investigation into one of the most revolting trends in recent UFOlogy, if we discount for a moment the increasingly grotesque excesses of the abduction debate: the inclusion of racist doctrines in ufological theorising. Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma bomber, allegedly saw UFOs on his farm in the Midwest, and claimed abduction experiences by aliens. There is now a growing chorus of New Age thinkers parroting right-wing doctrines about the Illuminati and the One World State. Both Bill Cooper and David Icke have allegedly given their personal credence to the notorious 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion'. This last has been the source of greatest controversy in the UK. Icke has been widely attacked by a number of Jewish groups fearing a renewed assault on them fuelled by his 'New Age' ideas. The furore surrounding these events culminated last year in the article 'New-age Nazism' by Matthew Kalman and John Murray, editors of Open Eye magazine, in the New Statesman and Society for 23rd June 1995. It hasn't halted the tide, however. Icke is still repeating his ludicrous claims about the Illuminati, and there's still an increasing number of individuals willing to give credence and publicity to his ideas. The News-stand magazine UFO Reality a few months ago devoted several pages to an extract from his latest oeuvre '...And the Truth Shall set You Free'. Well, perhaps, Dave. But I doubt it'll be the one in which you believe. All this aside, Nexus magazine has seen fit in recent issues to publish articles on Viktor Schauburger, the German wartime Flying Saucer researcher, and a review of the right wing historian David Irving's book on the bombing of Dresden, Apocalypse 1945. It was David Irving, you will recall who sparked off a bitter storm of outrage not so long ago with his denial of the holocaust and claim that Hitler knew nothing about it. UFOlogy is treading on very dangerous ground if it follows the same paths as these.

In this first part I'd like to discuss first what is meant by "New Age Nazi", before covering three of the most important religious organisations with a racist ufological slant, before dealing briefly with origins of the current mythology of Nazi flying saucers. In part two I intend to discuss modern conspiracy theories, the alien abduction scenario as a space age return of the incubus, and the fusion of the above myths into 'conspiracy noir'. I'll end, finally, with an examination of the impact of these ideas on British UFOlogy. As you'll notice as we go on, most of this racist material is American in origin.

Robin Ramsay, the editor of Lobster, writing in the Conspiracy column in Promises and Disappointments issue 3/4, noted that the term "new-age nazi" is a misnomer, stating that 'few if any of the people involved in this area are nazis - if the term can be said to

mean anything at all'. Nazism is a notoriously difficult thing to define. Hitler's rhetoric denounced both capitalism and communism, but included elements of both in order to appeal to the greatest number of German voters. He considered Nazism to be the third world alternative between capitalism and communism. Private industry was retained and protected, but made 'social' by a centrally planned economy on the Soviet model. He had a bitter hatred of Christianity because of its roots in Judaism, but banned the racist Neo-pagan groups which supplied much of his imagery and ideology. He and many other leading Nazis, such as Heinrich Himmler, were vegetarians bitterly opposed to hunting and vivisection, at least on animals. Jews, Gypsies and Slavs didn't count. He also encouraged German scientists to find alternative sources of energy, such as wind power. It would be wrong to condemn vegetarianism and the Green movement because he shared their ideals, but it's important to realise that the Fuehrer's championing of these beliefs has led some Fascist groups to make an appeal to those sections of society which finds these ideas attractive. Even the objects of their hate change. After the War, the Nazi party's successors like the German National Democratic Party claimed not to hate Jews, but reserved their assaults for the immigrant Guest Workers. Over here, the NF was most notorious for its opposition of coloured immigrants. France did his best to destroy Basque and Catalan culture and language. An extremist Indian Hindu leader caused intense controversy a year or two ago by his open espousal of Der Fuehrer and his bitter attacks on Muslims. To be fair to Icke, I doubt if he is a "Nazi". He doesn't seem to associate with any racist groups, or chant slogans against immigration. Like Cooper, he seems to believe that the Protocols are merely the cover for a more insidious conspiracy - that of the Illuminati, who are identified as being a separate group altogether. Well, that's the theory. In my opinion it just makes those ideas more insidious, as it gives a spurious respectability to them. You can believe in the World Bankers' Conspiracy, and still be a wholesome anti-racist. But I've digressed. My point here is that Nazi or Fascist ideas will transmute to anything and everything in order to gain popularity.

The term itself "New Age" is itself very misleading. Hitler was into the preoccupations of modern New Agers long before any Hippies had ever been a twinkle in the fathers' eyes out at Haight-Ashbury, and there were racists among the skywatchers from the very beginning. The occupants of the airships during the scares of the 1890s and 1910 were often described as being swarthy or "foreign looking", probably reflecting the xenophobia and international tensions of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras. When UFOlogy proper emerged during the late 40s - early 50s, several witnesses described the ufonauts as being oriental in appearance, or having slanted eyes. This possible reflects Western fears about the Asian peoples' alleged ingenuity and cruelty, and

mirrors concern over the growing economic and political influence of Japan and Communist China. The image of the "Grey", small in stature, with huge eyes and minimal or non-existent facial features may be an exaggeration of the early UFO sightings to report increasingly alien looking visitors. It's even been claimed that the good, Nordic elements with their long, blonde hair and comic-book names are a similar racist belief. Fairness of skin is equated with purity of heart. In point of fact, this belief is just about universal across the globe.

The gods of ancient Greece were blonde, and the Sanskrit word 'deva' means 'shining one'. In at least one black African folk tale, the glorified dead, although still definitely Negro in appearance, are surrounded by a golden glow. It should also be noted that in sharp contrast to some of his contemporaries, George Adamski preached a message of universal brotherhood and peace, not racial intolerance and violence. I've never read anything where Adamski hated anyone because of their ethnic background, regardless of the colour of his aliens. This is all in the past, however. Val Thor and his mates have all departed on the last bus back to Venus, and O. H. Krill and his cronies have crawled out from the nearest tunnel to take their place. Modern UFOlogy is now based on fear and pessimism rather than love and optimism. There are a few of the Old Guard left, like George King, but it's the new conspiracist ufologies that are gaining converts.

Modern racist UFOlogy draws on three traditions. The first is the organised anti-Semitism and racism of certain fringe religious groups such as Christian Identity, the Nation of Islam and allegedly the Church Universal and Triumphant. The second strand in this nasty web is a fascination with the occult doctrines and technology, including Flying Saucers, of the Third Reich. The last is the conspiracy tradition begun by the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and promoted by Nesta Webster, Arnold Leese and the John Birch Society. I'll now try and give a brief examination of each of the first two, leaving the conspiracies for a fuller treatment in part two.

Christian Identity is one of the most prominent of the far right groups forming the kernel of the modern militia movement in the US. Randy Weaver, who held federal agents at bay in a shoot out that resulted in the deaths of his wife and infant son in 1991 was a member of this sect. Christian identity are fervent Anglo-Israelites, believing that the Anglo-Saxon peoples of Britain and America are the descendants of the Lost Tribes of Israel. Many of their doctrines seem to stem from Dr Joseph Jeffers (1898 - 1988). Jeffers was the founder of a sect called the "Kingdom of Yahweh", "Kingdom Temple" and "Yahweh's New Kingdom". He formed the sect in 1935 after breaking with the Baptists. He, like Christian Identity, insisted that God and Jesus be called by their Hebrew names - Yahweh and Yehoshua. Vilifying the Jews as racially mixed impostors claiming to be Israelites, he was accused of supporting the Nazis during the rise of the Reich. When he and his wife honeymooned in Europe, they stayed for a time in Berlin. It was alleged by the American Weekly that Jeffers went along as a spectator when Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia. Like other, more mainstream charismatics, Jeffers channelled prophetic messages from God. Eventually he decided that he himself was Christ, and deserted his wife to father a "sacred child" out in the desert wilds of Florida. He explained this last contradiction by explaining that a drought would soon transform the place into a desert. Or at least, that's what he said in court.

Aside from his own eccentric life, there's a distinct "New Age" dimension to many of his teachings. Jeffers believed that the Time was Nigh, to quote the old adage, but called it the Age of Aquarius. His Kingdom Voice newsletter contains a number of naturopathic health cures, as well as the obligatory messages from the Almighty. Where the Yahwists touch on our particular field of interest in their acceptance of UFO material. Recent teachings include "Secrets About Yahweh's Spaceships" and "Secrets About Lost Civilisations". Just about anything and everything is grist to their mill, but I doubt any of us would agree with his ideas about the above.

Bizarrely, the Anglo-Israelite mentality has percolated through American society to various Black religious sects. The Nation of Yahweh, like their white compatriots, believe that they, and only they, are true Jews in the tradition of the Lost Tribes of Israel. Like

the Whites, they are violently anti-Semitic, viewing modern Jewry as impostors.

The most topical of the Black American religious sects is undoubtedly the Nation of Islam, championed as it is by Louis Farrakhan. The Nation of Islam was founded in the early part of this century as a successor to the Moorish Science Temple by W D Fard. After Fard's disappearance in 1933/34, leadership of the group passed to Elijah Mohammed. Elijah Mohammed declared that Fard was "Allah in person" and that he himself was Allah's "prophet and messenger". His main text, "Message to the Black man in America", tells of how the Black people originated within the tribe of Shabazz of the Asiatic nation 60 trillion years ago when a cataclysmic explosion separated the Earth and Moon. It was members of this tribe which first explored Earth, settled in the Nile Valley and wrote the Bible and Qu'ran. The Whites and other, non-Black peoples, were the result of an evil genetic experiment 6800 years ago in Mecca to pollute the blood and rule the Black people. Elijah Mohammed's racist ideas are still promoted vigorously by Farrakhan, who claims that his predecessor isn't dead. No, Elijah Mohammed has been taken up to a half mile wide circular mothership to direct the struggle of the Blacks against their White oppressors. Farrakhan himself claims to have been taken up to meet Elijah Mohammed in one of the smaller flying saucers while meditating on the mountain of Tepotzlan in 1985. Like his White supremacist counterparts, Farrakhan has an elaborate conspiracy theory of Jews and Freemasons to bring about the "One World State". But more of that later.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch there's the Church Universal and Triumphant. This fringe religious group was founded in 1958 as the Summit Lighthouse, changed its name to the Church Universal and Triumphant 20 years later. Its founder was the former Pentecost preacher, Mark Prophet, who died in 1973. He was succeeded as head of the Church by his widow, Clare.

The Church's doctrines are theosophical in basis, though with the addition of the alchemist Saint Germain to the pantheon of Ascended Masters and a greater stress on Jesus. Many cult watchers believe that the Church is another Waco waiting to erupt. Their compound on the Royal Teton Ranch out near Yellowstone National Park is heavily fortified. In 1989 Prophet's husband Edward Francis was convicted for purchasing \$100,000 worth of semiautomatic weapons. Federal agents also carried off ten antiaircraft rifles dating from the Second World War. The Covert Action Information Bulletin alleged links between the Church and the Committee for a Free Afghanistan, a right-wing group which backed the Afghan rebels who fought the Soviet invaders. Another conspiracy researcher, John Judge, has also claimed that the Church has extensive links to the World Anti Communist League (WACL), whose members have included South American Fascist dictators and the commanders of their death squads. The chairman of the Church's department of theology, Gene Vosseler, is a close associate of David Balsiger, a pro-apartheid activist.

Very good, I hear you say, but what has it all got to do with UFOs? Quite a bit, actually. Mark Prophet wrote a book in 1965 called 'The Soulless One: Cloning a Counterfeit Creation' which claimed to be a channelled history of the Earth given by Ascended Master R. Humanity is the result of an Extraterrestrial breeding programme. Unfortunately, one of the races created were the eponymous Soulless Ones. These creatures are a 'counterfeit race' that killed Christ and John the Baptist, and who today occupy positions of political, and Financial power, even controlling the entertainment media and the 'trends of youth'. These creatures literally have no soul though they may win one by serving God.

Prophet was influenced in this racist cosmology by George Hunt Williamson's 1953 book 'Other Tongues - Other Flesh'. This purported to be a description of the many alien races visiting Earth, one of whom is described as being 'the slop and waste of Orion'. This 'parasitic', 'materialistic' and 'deceitful' race are 'small in stature with strange, oriental type eyes'. Williamson promised that 'soon they will be eradicated'. This could be yet another piece of invective aimed at the 'Greys', were it not for Williamson's membership in the I Am and Soulcraft Movements, theosophical precursors of the CUT. The membership of both the above organisations overlapped strongly with that of William Dudley Pelley's Silver Legion. [For

more on George Hunt Williamson, see the article "Other Visions, Other Lives" by Dean James, later in this issue. - Ed.]

To be fair to the Church, they are keen to shed their racialist image. Prophet herself now receives astral messages from several Latin American Ascended Masters, and a Black one called Afra. The UFO connection is still strong, however. After Mark Prophet's death, Clare was telepathically contacted by aliens with evil intentions, and harassed by the notorious Men In Black. She's also hosted a day long seminar at the ranch on the current UFO panic with Linda Moulton Howe, Stanton Friedman, Bruce Maccabee and Budd Hopkins. She's also spoken to Zechariah Sitchin, one of the more famous authors of books on ancient astronauts. It's also alleged that the Church has informal connections with a number of abductee support groups. Corey Slavin, a former Keeper of the Flame at the Church and now vice-president of the Cult Awareness Network and a main source for the alleged racism and anti-Semitism in the Church, also claimed that in 1990 many members of the Church had encounters with Extraterrestrials at the Ranch. Parallels begin to emerge with that other rightist abductee, Timothy McVeigh.

As promised on the itinerary, the next step on our tour of the bizarre is Nazi occultism and technology. It seems from the testimonies of the former axis scientists and pilots Robert Schriever, Walter Mieth, George Klein and Renato Vesco that the Nazis were experimenting with disc-shaped aircraft during the Second World War. The present mythology of secret Nazi UFO bases in the Antarctic seems to be derived chiefly from the books "UFO: Nazi Secret Weapons?" and "Secret Nazi Polar Expeditions" by Ernst Zundl, writing as Mattern and Christof Friedrich. Zundl used much material from the occult Vril and Thule societies, but his chief source of information seems to have been Wilhelm Landig's 1971 novel, *Goetzen Gegen Thule* (Idols Against Thule). This 'fiction full of facts' located the secret Nazi base in the wastes of the Canadian north. It was Zundl who sited them down south. Zundl himself is an active neo-Nazi with links to various rightist groups in South America. He chiefly supports himself through his Samizdat Press publishing firm in Canada and by selling Nazi memorabilia.

In its pursuit of Nazi UFO secrets, UFOlogy seems to be following a trend already marked out in certain strands of occultism. The Third Reich exerts an unholy fascination because of its bizarre rituals and the overt paganism of some of its members, like Himmler's SS. Giulio Evola, Rene Guenon, Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier are only a few of the continental occultists to embrace Fascism. These last two are still widely read as a prime source on Nazi occultism by virtue of the second volume of their 1960 book *Le Matin des Magiciens* (The Morning of the Magicians). To some extent this can be traced back to the elitism found in much occultism. Fascism and Nazism stress the importance of elite groups, both ideological and economic as well as racial. A good few occult groups adopt baroque rituals similar to the religious theatre of Nazism, while stressing that they are repositories of profound hidden knowledge accessible only to the initiated, possession of which marks one apart from lesser mortals. Michael Aquino of the Temple of Set carried out an obscure pagan ritual at the castle site of Himmler's former SS headquarters. Anton LaVey's Church of Satan is rumoured to contain many racists. Dark Lily, the magazine of the Satanist Society of the Black Chalice, published a eulogy of Adolf Hitler, among others. As modern Satanism stresses the supremacy of the individual and exalts the pleasure principle, Hitler's nihilism and contempt for inferiors finds a ready audience among these people.

Well, that brings us to the end of this part of the tour. I hope it hasn't put you off the rest of the ride. We have a lot to cover.

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Heart of Darkness Part 2: Incubus/ Succubus

In the first part you were introduced to some of the fringe 'New Age' groups which have adopted UFOlogy as part of a racist ideology. In this part I intend to examine some of the conspiracy theories which support a fascistic worldview, before assessing the impact all this has had on British UFOlogy.

Writers such as David Icke, William Cooper et al make extensive claims regarding the Illuminati. These are alleged to be an elite conspiratorial group controlling world affairs eventually leading up to the creation of the One World State so beloved of the American Evangelicals. The historical Illuminati were a group of Freethinkers with democratic ideals founded in Bavaria in 1776 by Adam Weishaupt, a professor of Canon Law. In order to spread its ideas it infiltrated various Masonic lodges in Bavaria, Austria, Italy and Hungary before its condemnation by the Roman Catholic church and eventual suppression by the Bavarian authorities in 1785. Despite this, rumours persisted that they were still active. George Washington, Franklin and many of the other American revolutionaries were Freemasons. Even today, the American Great Seal contains the classic Masonic symbol of an eye in a pyramid with the slogan 'Novo Ordo Seclorum' - 'New World Order'. Thus, as early as 1795 the book 'Proofs of a Conspiracy', published in New York, could claim that the American Revolution was a product of Illuminati plotting. Similar claims regarding the French Revolution were made by the Abbe Barruel in his 1797 book 'Memoirs to help in Understanding the History of Jacobinism'.

These conspiracist fears were revived in the early part of this century by Nesta Webster. Webster, a die hard Conservative and the daughter of one of the directors of Barclays Bank, became convinced that the French Revolution had been masterminded by the Freemasons and the Duc d'Orleans. She viewed the aristocratic order of the French ancient regime as the pinnacle of social perfection. While researching her novel on the Chevalier de Boufflers, one of the nobles caught up in the Revolution, she became convinced that she had read the correspondence between the Chevalier and the Comtesse de Sabran in a previous life. Immersing herself in occultism, she considered that Jewish cabbalism was at the heart of Freemasonry. From this it was but a short step to the overt anti-Semitism of her later works.

Many of the French revolutionaries had been Freemasons, due less, perhaps, from the Freemasons pursuing a distinct, co-ordinated political programme than by virtue of the secrecy that lodge meetings afforded to discuss radical political and religious ideas away from the scrutiny of the police and ecclesiastical authorities. Their influence was too weak, however, for them to be convincing scapegoats for the Russian Revolution. Webster now blamed the fall of the Russian monarchy on Jewish financiers and Prussian militarism. When the Protocols of the Elders of Zion occurred in the early '20s, she declared that even if they weren't literally true, they still encapsulated the programme of Weishaupt's Illuminati.

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion themselves are the most notorious anti-Semitic forgery in history. They purport to be the minutes of a meeting of world rabbis in Switzerland to discuss the overthrow of Christendom and the creation of a Jewish World superstate. They were in fact concocted by Rachkovsky, a member of the Tsar's secret police, and Nilus, a Russian Orthodox monk, in order to convince Nicholas II of the necessity of persecuting the Jews. They're based partly on the allegations of Jacob Brafman, a Jewish convert to Christianity who made similar claims about the

kahal - the central council governing Jewish affairs in the Jewish settlements of the Russian Empire. Most of it, however, is adapted from a short story, the Dialogue Aux Enfers, which is about a conversation between Macchiavelli and Montaigne in hell. The purpose of the Dialogue was to show that noble sentiments like Montaigne's could always be corrupted by the cunning and subterfuge of the former.

After the Russian Revolution, émigré Whites brought it to the West, where it was translated into English by Victor Marsden. In Britain it was published in the Morning Post, and became a staple of the later Fascist publishing houses. In America Henry Ford published it in the Dearborn Independent, his newspaper which also attacked international finance, trade unionism and socialism. Even the Times was taken in by the idea of a Jewish conspiracy for a time.

The roots of the hatred of Jewish financiers lie well back in the Middle Ages, when banking was almost exclusively in the hands of Jews. The success of certain financiers like the Rothschilds in the 18th and 19th centuries led to further Gentile hostility towards them. Initially this hostility was expressed by the left. Alphonse Toussenel, a French naturalist and disciple of the utopian Socialist Fourier, blamed the excesses of contemporary urbanisation and capitalism on the Jews in his 1845 book, Les Juifs, Rois de l'Epoque. J. A. Hobson, the Liberal economist, believed that the Boer War in South Africa was engineered by Jewish capitalists for their own interests, a view adopted by various Conservative die-hards regarding the bloodbath of the First World War. These fears regarding Jewish finance inevitable became linked to the United Nations after the Second World War. In the view of British Fascists like A K Chesterton, the Dunbarton Oaks and Breton Woods agreement, the Trilateral Commission, the World Bank and the UN itself were all fronts for the One World Jewish superstate supported by its architects - the Rothschilds, Bilderbergs, Warburgs, Bernard Baruch and other American Jewish financiers.

Aside from anti-Semitism, a number of Evangelical Christians also opposed the UN as the extreme embodiment of centralised authority. The American anti federalists initially opposed the Constitution as they felt that the creation of a central authority in Washington placed the rights of the individual constituent states in jeopardy. Their modern heirs, the Posse Comitatus and States Rights Party today oppose the Federal Government as a way of circumventing welfare and equal opportunities legislation. At the international level, they saw first the League of Nations and then the UN as a form of world federalism, seeking to control and suppress the religion and traditions of God-fearing Christian Americans.

As far as UFOlogy goes, Bill Cooper in his book Behold a Pale Horse has claimed that the UN and Majestic 12 committee are kernels of the One World state, whose ultimate architects are the aliens with whom the world's governments are collaborating. Roosevelt's chief advisers when he set up the Majestic 12 were, of course, the Rockefellers and Bilderbergs. Louis Farrakhan expressed similar fears that Jewish and Masonic financial groups were going to set up a One World state in an interview with Norio Hayakawa. Farrakhan differs from Cooper, however, in that he believes the Extraterrestrial threat to be manufactured by terrestrial power groups as a pretext for setting up the aforementioned demonic state.

Actually, if it's one thing UFOlogy doesn't need, it's another conspiracy theory. It's got so many of its own already. From the start there were rumours of government cover-ups, and these rumours have grown louder over time. Botched attempts to explain away the phenomenon, like the Condon Report and Project Blue Book, have only increased the suspicion of active government involvement. The abandonment of the Moon programme in the '70s merely led to more paranoia. Theories now abound that humanity never reached the Moon at all, or was warned off, or went in top secret antigravity craft. Sightings of Black Helicopters, the aerial equivalent of the MIB's unmarked black limos, and the irruption of cattle mutilations, have only led to more bizarre rumours of government experiments and alien visitations. And on top of all this there is the ongoing drama of alien abductions.

You probably know more than enough about alien abductions already. There's precious little I can add to it. I'll just give you one more thing to think upon. Part of Hitler's pathological hatred of the Jews was his belief that they had a policy of intermarrying with gentile peoples in order to pollute their stock with their own debased blood. Viewed from this angle the abduction phenomenon ties up all too closely with Williamson and Prophet's identification of the 'Greys' as a kind of cosmic Jewry.

The psychosocial school tends to view UFOlogy as a modern secularised, technological religion. Many religions have a story of a fall - that once, humanity lived in peace and righteousness with superhuman powers, but then lost this blessed state through sin. In Judaism, Christianity and Islam there is the story of Adam and Eve. The 19th Century pagan Lanz von Liebenfels believed that the ancient Nordic gods were really an earlier race of superior human beings who had possessed powers of telepathy through secret electric organs. These organs had withered and atrophied through millennia of intermarriage with subhuman 'apelings'. Only a programme of selective breedings and sterilisation could restore humanity to this former blessed state. What's on display here is a proto-Nazi version of the Myth of the Fall. Despite Christianity's retreat before various 'New Age' faiths, the motif of a Fall remains. David Icke certainly believes that humanity possesses latent powers which it is prevented from using by institutional structures.

The last ingredient in this ideological stew is the revolt against religion begun by Schopenhauer, and given an occult dimension through Aleister Crowley. The German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer revolted against what he considered to be the bloodthirsty Old Testament God of Christianity and Judaism, exalting instead the deities of the Hindu Vedas. His pupil, Nietzsche, rejected all religion in favour of a philosophy of Will and the supremacy of the individual. Modern Chaos Magick, based on Crowley's teachings, continues the revolt against organised religion, but uses a belief in gods as a means to an end. A powerful belief in a particular deity is regarded as an important psychic tool - but no more than a tool - in the working of effective magick.

This revolt against organised religion finds a bizarre echo in some of the more outré theories of Icke and William Bramley. Zechariah Sitchin, Erich Von Daniken and the rest of the 'ancient astronaut' school convinced many people that the gods of the ancients were based on visitations by real Extraterrestrials. Icke and Bramley have gone further, in that both have absorbed John Keel's and Jacques Vallee's observations that as often as not the aliens are deceivers, giving us deliberately false messages. Keel himself is convinced that the aliens - or rather 'Ultraterrestrials' - are engineering our development and history for their own ends and really don't have our best interests at heart. In his book 'The Gods of Eden' Bramley proposed that humanity had indeed been created by Extraterrestrial gods, but as a servant, not a companion. The Tower of Babel incident in the Bible occurred when humanity challenged the power of these alien gods over them by showing independent thought. Icke goes further. The Extraterrestrials control us through masquerading as our deities and founding religions in order to divide us. If this isn't enough, they have also established ruling dynasties amongst us who have controlled us since time immemorial. These secret elites are the aforementioned Illuminati. It is these Illuminati and their Extraterrestrial masters who are preventing humanity from realising its true occult powers.

Icke's argument would be far more impressive if he could actually spell. Vallee's first name he spells 'Jaques', presumably confusing him with that well-loved comedy actress in 'Sykes'. The Hindu god Indra he spells 'Indira', presumably confusing one of Hinduism's most revered deities with Mrs. Gandhi. He also speculates that Yahweh and Jehova (sic - he can't spell that either) are two separate ancient astronauts. Actually, they're merely alternative spellings of the same name. The letter for 'Y' in the Hebrew script can also be read as a 'J', and the letter for 'W' can also be read as a 'V'. There are also no vowels marked in Hebrew. Pronunciation is partly a matter of tradition. Such elemental errors certainly left me unconvinced of the validity of his religious opinions. I think he should have stuck to football.

Well, there you have it. Racist UFOlogy is a mixture of Christian anti-Semitism derived from the religious groups we

looked at in the first part of this essay, adapted to the new religion of the ETs. At the moment it is far stronger in America. The country's far more religious than here in Britain - 40% of Americans go to church on Sunday, as opposed to 4% in Britain. The country is also far more conservative in its opinions, possibly due to the large stretches of agricultural communities in the Midwest and other parts of the US. The growth of extreme right-wing movements in the US is partly explicable as a reaction to the globalisation of the economy which has resulted in jobs needed at home being parcelled out abroad to exploit cheap foreign labour. The increasing complexity of government and global politics and economics is rapidly becoming incomprehensible to ordinary citizens, who naturally turn to easily understood, irrational explanations. Like the ideas that the government is being run by Jewish bankers and Extraterrestrials.

It has to be admitted that a certain amount of paranoia is justified. MIT and CalTech both carried out biological, radiation, and drug experiments on the lowest ranks of society and the military at the behest of the government. They may still be doing so. You can read some of these revelations in documents freed under the Freedom Of Information Act.

Britain has no such act. Unless you read magazines such as *Lobster*, the clandestine operations of the government is still very much a secret. Public consciousness of what might be going on behind the closed doors of the Secret State is therefore still very limited. People may grumble about the government, but, except in Northern Ireland, there is no revolutionary tradition as there is in America. Unlike the American South, we also lack a history of racial segregation through legislature. Racial tensions and violence unfortunately exist, but the conditions for a full-scale Fascist armed movement like the Militias are largely lacking. Enough people on this side of the Atlantic still seem to have some kind of confidence in the electoral process and central government.

Similarly, the impact of racism on British UFOlogy is negligible. There are an increasing number of people, including many readers of this magazine, who believe that something funny is going on behind the scenes, and Whitehall is covering something up, but few would embrace the conspiracism of the American right. Except for the readers of those books by Robert Anton Wilson and Robert Shea, I doubt if many people over here have heard of the Illuminati, let alone are convinced they're running things. Of those that do, I'm not sure many of them are actually racist. The American John Birch Society were the most vigorous promoters of the Illuminati Conspiracy outside of the Fascist fringe after the Second World War. Although they're bitterly opposed to state intervention in industry and welfare, they denounced racism as 'a Communist plot to divide America'. Many of the Evangelicals who promote the idea of the conspiracy are keen to distinguish between the banking elite such as the Rothschilds and the mass of ordinary Jews. I recall reading one book which alleged that even when Hitler's intentions towards the Jews became known, the Rothschilds still lent the Reich money.

This side of the Atlantic a full-scale racist UFOlogy is largely absent. The only ufological group I've come across which accepted the notion of an organised Extraterrestrial-Masonic conspiracy was Ken Phillips' Witness Support Group. Even then, his opinions were challenged by several of his members. The WSG itself was very limited in membership. Its magazine, *Rapport*, had a circulation of about 40 people so it wasn't a mass-market periodical like *UFO Magazine* by any means. The only overt racist in Phillip's organisation was George Spurgeon, whose racism stemmed more from a secular extremist nationalism without reference to either religion or UFOs. In fact, he seems to have regarded the UFO magazines to which he attempted to contribute as being little more than a platform for his own racist rants. Well, there you have it. I've taken you on a very brief tour of the racist fears contaminating a lot of UFOlogy today. I hope you've had the stomach to cope with most of it. As I said, at the moment it is limited on this side of the Atlantic, but that may change if economic conditions and race relations deteriorate. The only way to combat this is to strive for a society that both creates and fairly distributes wealth, and allows all sections of society to feel an important part of the political process. This is for politicians. What ufologists can do is challenge the racists whenever they put their views in print, and show the current irrational beliefs about the Illuminati for the racist moonshine they are.

In the meantime, I hope I've provided you with enough food for thought. Please bear all this in mind. And remember: Heute die Welt, Morgan das Sonnensystem.

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Alien Incompetency Theory:

A Unified Theory to Explain UFO Phenomena

By Chris Rutkowski

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One of the most significant issues in ufology today is the attempt to explain the wide variety of conflicting, confusing and bizarre elements of the UFO phenomenon. In every subfield of ufological studies, there are aspects which strain the logic of even the most seasoned researcher and cause one to doubt the rationality of the genre.

To this end, a new theory has been developed by members of Ufology Research of Manitoba (UFOROM) which appears to explain most, if not all, of these baffling elements. The theory, labelled AINT, is the Alien Incompetency Theory, and describes how all the confusing aspects can be explained by assuming one simple tenet: aliens are incompetent!

To illustrate the theory, one need only to look at examples from within the phenomenon itself, including its outlying subfields. First, let us look at alien abductions.

One of the basic premises of alien abductions is the conscious recall by abductees of their experiences aboard alien spacecraft. Nearly all abductees report that during their ordeal, the aliens create some sort of mental block within their minds so that they cannot remember what has occurred. Yet, as evidenced by the huge number of abduction accounts published and under investigation, these mental blocks are ineffective.

This is odd, considering the advanced technology and knowledge reported to be held by the aliens. Some abductees report that their captors claim thousands of years of development beyond our own, yet they, too, have failed to produce a lasting screen memory that can withstand our feeble efforts to unlock it via simple hypnosis techniques duplicable by any charlatan or stage magician. Why would this be?

(Vladimir Simosko, a UFOROM associate and noted Fortean researcher, has suggested some alternatives. Aside from sheer incompetence, he notes two other possibilities: 1) aliens have a wacky sense of humor; and 2) they *want* us to remember, despite the pretense of intending us to forget.)

Another curious observation is that nearly all abductees report aliens with roughly humanoid shapes and comparable sizes, but with different origins and purposes. Some aliens tell their victims they are from Venus, some from the Pleiades and others from Zeta Reticuli. Since space science has learned Venus cannot support life, this is obvious misinformation. As for the Pleiades, these are stars much younger than our Sun and without hope for planets with suitable living conditions at this time. Some aliens claim their home planet has deteriorated from misuse and pollution, and wish to warn us about our own disruption of our planet. Others suggest they need our biological material to breed new life (literally) into their gene pool, perhaps to regain such things as emotions or other human characteristics. It is interesting that these scenarios imply that the aliens have somehow caused their own demise and that without our help they are lost. In other words, they made some serious mistakes. It is not too much of a stretch to suggest they were incompetent in managing their resources! Of course, some aliens are said to claim that they are superior to us and have their own agendas. This is precisely what an incompetent person would claim to cover his or her mistakes in order to avoid embarrassment.

We can look at other aspects of abductions for further evidence. One abductee studied by John Mack described how she woke up one morning after her abduction, wearing lavender underwear. This was baffling to her because she didn't own any underwear of that colour. Mack quickly interpreted this to mean that the aliens had somehow made a mistake on board their craft during a busy mass-abduction, and mixed-up abductees' clothing. Other abductees have reported returning from their abductions with slippers on the wrong feet and other items of clothing either missing or improperly fastened. In a case studied by Budd Hopkins, an abductee's earrings were found to be in backwards after her ordeal on board a craft. This all speaks to one explanation: the aliens were incompetent. One would hope that superior beings who have been watching humans for many years would have easily picked up nuances such as the colour of our clothing and the way jewellery is fastened to our bodies.

Simosko would again note that this could be a display of an alien sense of humour, or perhaps an "intelligence test" of some sort. Regarding further refinements of AINT, he offers four postulates:

- 1) If the aliens are intervening to "help us along," they are incompetent because it isn't working out too well; humans remain relatively unsophisticated and not very "tuned-in" to the universe.
- 2) If the aliens are intervening by holding us back, it isn't working all that well, either, since although an overwhelming majority of humans are tuned-out, there are a number who are attempting to raise the level of consciousness: Mother Theresa, the Pope, Sun Ra, the Dalai Lama, Sharon Stone, etc.
- 3) If the aliens are trying *not* to intervene, they're even more incompetent than the other postulates would indicate.
- 4) If there are several different groups of aliens, some helping and others preventing our advancement, this is proof of incompetence because they cannot "get their act together."

Another aspect of the UFO phenomenon is crash/retrievals. Associated with the idea that some alien ships have crashed on Earth is the concept that terran government or military bureaucrats have failed to keep the crashes secret, allowing some documents to be leaked to UFO researchers. (More on this later.)

The most famous crash story is that of the Roswell incident, in which a flying saucer apparently crashed during an electrical storm in New Mexico in 1947. While researchers have spent many years tracking down witnesses and speculating as to where the ship might have done down, the obvious question has never been asked: Why did it crash in the first place? One only needs to consider accidents of terrestrial vehicles in order to realise the answer: pilot or driver error.

It would be truly remarkable to consider that an alien pilot who has navigated his (or her or its) craft through interstellar space

using highly-advanced technology and propulsion would be unable to maintain level flight through a mere thunderstorm. There is only one reasonable and possible explanation: the pilot was incompetent. Considering the large number of saucer crashes now claimed by researchers, it would seem that many aliens have difficulty flying their vehicles. Surely this could imply that many are incompetent.

We can look to crop circles as further support for AINT. Allegedly, crop circles constitute a form of "communication" between aliens and ourselves. It is implied they are trying to warn us of or prepare us for some upcoming fateful situation through the creation of "agriglyphs," consisting of complex mathematical patterns and obscure symbols. Why would they attempt to communicate with us in such a fashion? Why not just send a radio message or write something in English or Japanese on a sheet of cardboard? Why 100-foot-wide Mayan lettering in marketable Durham? Obviously, their communication skills are less than exemplary, especially since researchers cannot come to an agreement as to the exact messages (other than something about impending "earth changes"). The aliens must be, of course, incompetent.

What about the infamous Men-in-Black (MIBs)? They are described as human in appearance, though possessing some characteristics that give them away. Their facial pallor is often olive or grey in colour and their eyes are wide and staring. Their movements are jerky and their speech stilted. They may ask people unusual questions or otherwise show an unfamiliarity with terran customs. For example, in response to the query: "Hey, buddy! What you lookin' at? You want a knuckle sandwich?", a MIB might say, "Yes, please, with some mayonnaise." Such actions easily show they are not humans at all; if their purpose was to mimic humans, their imperfections show that they are, again, incompetent.

Contactees often will share their imparted knowledge from their alien mentors. Unfortunately, practically all contactees claim contact with different aliens from different planets and with different messages to humankind. (They are similar to abductees in this way.) When pressed to ask their channelled entities for more palpable proof of their claims, or perhaps a useable prediction or two, the contactees are told by the aliens that Earth is "not ready" for the knowledge or, instead, give a vague diatribe about "parallel vibrational states" or "temporal matter disruptions."

An examination of other channelled material finds many other examples of alien doubletalk and baffle-gab. Rather than accepting the channelled information as revelations from higher beings, the lack of content of the messages suggests something else: the aliens themselves don't know the answers or lack the information as well. Again, we can ask how an incredibly advanced civilisation would not be able to give one single example that would prove their superiority. Could it be that they do not know the answers, despite their reputed intelligence?

One can also ask why aliens would choose to abduct people from lower castes or social status rather than those in positions of authority. Why don't they land on the White House lawn? Perhaps they don't know to do so. How could they not know this? They are incompetent.

Even the implants found inside some abductees are curious. Each one is of a different size, shape and/or compost, and while there is a trend for some to be found in abductees' noses, others are found in feet, shoulders, wrists and knees. Surely, if the aliens are conducting a scientific test, their methodology would be consistent. In fact, the implants appear to be little more than chunks of metal or calcified plastics rather than microtransmitters. Perhaps the alien doctors don't know that they are doing.

In all of these examples, it is possible to interpret the aliens' actions as being far from superior. In fact, they seem rather ridiculous. But, if the aliens are really superior beings from an advanced civilisation on a distant planet, why are they acting in such an illogical manner? We can point to a parallel situation here on our own planet. Why, given our own relatively-advanced technology and level of knowledge, is bureaucratic infighting delaying the construction of the space station? Why is NASA nearly bankrupt?

We also can look at examples in areas other than space science.

Why would politicians lobby for tighter controls on cigarettes because of cancer dangers, but pass bills that would subsidise farmers to grow tobacco? Why do bureaucrats create subcommittees to investigate wastes of time and taxpayers' money? Why would politicians sponsor a covert activity to break into a psychiatrist's office in a hotel? (For that matter, why would people vote for politicians, knowing their track records for honesty and integrity?) Why can't my subscription to a magazine get renewed, even when I send the check in four months before the subscription expires? And why are 60% of all automobiles recalled by the manufacturer during the first year they are on the road?

The answer, of course, is incompetence. Bureaucratic bungling, political wrangling and general ineptitude are responsible for most of the problems in the world today. Politicians and bureaucrats create such confusion that it is clear they themselves have no idea what they are doing.

Now, imagine a highly-evolved technical civilisation on a distant planet. Its society functions well, with the exception of a comparatively small number of its population. These would no doubt be their most ineffective politicians and bureaucrats. What better way to remove them from the general gene pool and work force than to send them off on interstellar voyages that, with relativity, would return them many, many years later, if at all?

Because they are incompetent, they would be confused as to their mission. They would be clumsy pilots and navigators and, because they lack the true knowledge of their society, they would be unable to tell anyone anything about their purpose or scientific capability with any degree of understanding or common sense.

As evidence that this is true, a cursory study of the terrestrial government cover-up of UFO crashes shows incompetence as well, but this time with regard to human bureaucrats. The presence of a

vast number of leaked documents shows that the government (even a "shadow" variety) cannot function effectively because it is, after all, still a government (which, by definition, is incompetent).

Therefore, we can observe that bizarre aspects of the UFO phenomenon are explained best by assuming the aliens are incompetent. More to the point, they must be the most incompetent examples of their race, namely the bureaucrats. The Alien Incompetency Theory is borne out by an examination of the available observations and claims of witnesses, and can finally explain what is going on. An understanding of this situation will certainly change the way ufologists will approach their subject.

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Editor's note: Well there we have it! A convincing argument that aliens, if they exist at all, are crap. As a civil servant I have no further comment. Sweet dreams, everybody.



Beyond our Spectral Reality...

The World's Best Kept Secret concerning Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena?

by Kenneth John Parsons,

The British Earth & Aerial Mysteries Society.

Apart from the misidentification of that which is natural or manmade, perhaps the only rightful interpretation for UFO flyovers is that these bodies neither originate from other planets or dimensions, but rather from another spectrum.

There is evidence both photographic (infrared), and communicated (via psychics) to suggest that reports of flying unknowns do not concern hardware at all, but creatures - bodiless intelligences which are pure electromagnetic energy in nature. From what I have learnt, these life forms appear to predate mankind by countless millions of years and have inhabited this planet from its outset, for they ARE (if this data is spot on) what may be rightfully described as *the overseers of humanity* - "Gods" and "demons" to us. Existing in the vibratory levels on either side of the ordinary light spectrum, "they" become visible to us only when they alter their own vibrational frequencies, taking on whatever form is desirable. Exempt from all of the usual laws of nature, the skytravellers are able to manipulate time, matter, light, gravitation and sound for their own purposes.

We are also informed that both physical and psychical intervention of subjects is common practice by the visitors...

And that is just about all that we are permitted to have, just the most elementary insights and a few fleeting photo opportunities of this higher intelligence. If the truth be told, there is very little understanding of what is actually taking place here. They come and they go, sometimes leaving psychological impressions (and even ground patterns) behind, perhaps as a memento or a clue for us to ponder over.

Ours is not to reason why

The concept of figures from beyond our spectral reality interacting with the material world is not at all far fetched and perhaps even supersedes the extraterrestrial hypothesis for plausibility. Gradually we mere mortals are coming to terms with the fact that ours is a multi-layered planet, with many different planes of actuality, each comfortably coexisting and intertwining with its neighbour; multi-dimensional abodes of the traditional and fabulous.

Indeed, it has been said that the very purpose of UFO displays, crop circles, visions, etc. is to advance humankind's metaphysical wisdom, and expand our consciousness by presenting us with the unexpected. While other authorities claim that the aliens are here on a mission to spread deceit and confusion, the truth is that we just do not know, because here we are doubtless talking about an operation based on contrasting codes of comportment and ethics to our own.

Speculations abound, usually founded upon religious beliefs and wishful thinking, all veneered with a distinct lack of knowledge concerning the metaphysical...

Add to this confusion the creations of those who fabricate for financial gain and we can appreciate how alien visitation can be readily portrayed in the most respected areas of the public arena (*Newsnight* for instance, along with all of the scientific and astronomy journals) as nothing more than modern day mythology.

I sometimes think that the general public are being classed as underdogs, only to be fed a few low-grade televisual treats to keep them happy, because it is a fact that the strongest of UFOlogical video evidence is rarely broadcast on television for the masses.

Most people are unable to attend UFO conferences, and judging from what they have seen on the box must wonder what all of the fuss is about. To those on the sunny outside looking in, the whole subject is a curious grey circus side-show, attended by anorak wearing freaks.

Perhaps this is the way certain of the world's political, ecclesiastical and military governorships wish the subject to remain - as a minority and socially suspect interest.

Editor's Comment: Certain elements of the above theory remind me of the writings of H.P. Lovecraft, and I am also reminded of Andy Collins showing us slides of dark objects hovering in the skies above crop circles formations. These photographs were taken with infrared sensitive film, and he linked them with "orgone creatures" and the orgone energy of Dr Wilhelm Reich. The bizarre nature of UFO contacts is certainly a great mystery; perhaps there is no pattern to be discovered. The problem is compounded by there being several different phenomena occurring which all get lumped together. These phenomena need to be isolated and identified before patterns can be found.

I would recommend all of our readers to get to a UFO conference if at all possible. Oh, and don't insult my anorak.



Grey Theories by Jason Black.

I have many personal ideas on "the greys", on how they travel and where they come from. One idea is that the greys come from a distant galaxy without a sun. The reason I say this is because the greys are characterised as having eyes that are covered by a black film, similar to that shown in the Santilli autopsy footage. During the autopsy the black film was removed to reveal an eye very much like our own. Is it possible that these black films are the equivalent of sunglasses (as I call them)? If greys live in dark conditions in their own galaxy then they would need these "sunglasses" to protect their eyes as they wouldn't be able to endure the brightness of our Sun. This would also explain their complexion being a cold grey colour, if their bodies were used to being without sunlight.

Some people believe that greys absorb food through their skin by rubbing it on like sun tan lotion, and that they also secrete waste back out the same way. Some abductees have reported that greys smell really badly, which would seem obvious if the theory on their eating habits was true. But if they eat this way and communicate by telepathy (also reported by abductees), then why do they need a mouth? Or do they use their mouths to speak to each other only in their own language? Or do the greys live in the sea? It is also dark at the bottom of the sea and so they would still need "sunglasses" on the surface of the Earth. There have also been accounts of USOs, objects detected under the sea moving at great speeds. [Some researchers have previously noted that UFOs seem particularly interested lakes, reservoirs and other bodies of water - Ed.]

Are the greys a slave race? Reports of greys usually say that the small grey is the one that does the sample collecting, the abducting and the normally mundane tasks, but they never speak. [Except by telepathy? - Ed.] Another grey that is reported is the one that is normally referred to as the Doctor. This grey usually does the supervision during examinations and have also been known to communicate. Occasionally a different humanoid is seen by the abductees. This humanoid watches over examinations from a distance and when an abductee is in pain, he usually comforts them and talks to them to make them feel no pain. This system of hierarchy reminds me of a bee hive. You have a worker bee (small grey), a drone bee (doctor grey) and a queen bee (humanoid). The small greys don't seem to have any genitals. Is this because the humanoids who are in charge don't want them to reproduce by their own will and start a revolution against their bosses? Who is above the humanoids? Why do greys look so much like us if they are aliens? Are they interested in us because we look so much alike? One theory of mine is that they come from a galaxy that was at war.

This happened a long time ago and they sent greys to Earth. Maybe aliens abducted apes and experimented on them to form a hybrid known to us as humans. Now greys have been sent back to see how we are getting on. Perhaps greys are another, more advanced hybrid of the original alien, and we are the original guinea pigs. This of course is a quite extreme theory, but we do know that space travellers have been coming to Earth for thousands of years. We know this from drawings done by stone age people and also drawings found in the pyramids.

Are the governments of the world communicating with aliens and making deals with them? Many people believe that some governments are giving aliens permission to abduct humans and experiment with us in exchange for advanced technology. But are the governments getting a bad deal? Are they really getting new advanced technology? And why are humans being abducted more and more? Surely there must be a limit. Also, what really goes on at secret underground military bases? Are these being run by aliens and is that why the government is so desperate to keep them so secret?

Editor's note: Phew! A breathless gallop through the world of alien abductions by Jason Black, founder member of Bristol based group UFO Nation. In order to regain a sense of normality, let's move on to something completely different...

Do you think that you might have been abducted? I have picked this list recently off the internet and included it for interest. Just how many of these questions can you answer yes to? I think it has been written, either by design or fault, so that everyone can answer

yes to one or more!

52 Questions: Have you ever been abducted?

Ask yourself if you . . .

1. Have had missing or lost time of any length, especially one hour or more.
2. Have been paralysed in bed with a being in your room.
3. Have unusual scars or marks with no possible explanation on how you received them. especially if you have an emotional reaction to them. (i.e. small scoop indentation, straight line scar, scars in roof of mouth. in nose, behind or in ears, or genitals, etc.
4. Have seen balls of light or flashes of light in your home or other locations
5. Have a memory of flying through the air which could not be a dream.
6. Have a "marker memory" that will not go away (i.e.: alien face, examination, needle, table, strange baby, etc.)
7. Have seen beams of light outside your home, or come into your room through a window.
8. Have had dreams of UFOs, beams of light, or alien beings.
9. Have had a UFO sighting or sightings in your life.
10. Have a cosmic awareness, an interest in ecology, environment, vegetarianism, or are very socially conscious.
11. Have a strong sense of having a mission or important task to perform, without knowing where this compulsion came from.
12. Have had unexplainable events occur in your life, and felt strangely anxious afterwards.
13. For women only: Have had false pregnancy or missing foetus. (pregnant, and then not)
14. Have awoken in another place than where you went to sleep, or don't remember ever going to sleep. (i.e. upside down in bed, or in your car)
15. Have had a dream of eyes such as animal eyes (like an owl or deer), or remember seeing an animal looking in at you. Also if you have a fear of eyes.
16. Have awoken in the middle of the night startled.
17. Have strong reaction to cover of Communion or pictures of aliens. Either an aversion to or being drawn to.
18. Have inexplicably strong fears or phobias. (i.e. heights, snakes, spiders, large insects, certain sounds. bright lights, your personal security or being alone).
19. Have experienced self-esteem problem much of your life.
20. Have seen someone with you become paralysed, motionless, or frozen in time, especially someone you sleep with.
21. Have awoken with marks, burns or bruises which appeared during the night with no explanation on how you could have possibly received them.
22. Have had someone in your life who claims to have witnessed a ship or alien near you or has witnessed you having been missing.
23. Have had, at any time, blood or an unusual stain on sheet or pillow, with no explanation of how it got there.
24. Have an interest in the subject of UFOs or aliens, perhaps compelled to read about it a lot, or an extreme aversion towards the subject.
25. Have been suddenly compelled to drive or walk to an out of the way or unknown area.
26. Have the feeling of being watched much of the time, especially at night.
27. Have had dreams of passing through a closed window or solid wall.
28. Have seen a strange fog or haze that should not be there.
29. Have heard strange humming or pulsing sounds, and you could not identify the source.
30. Have had unusual nose bleeds at any time in your life. Or have awoken with a nose bleed.
31. Have awoken with soreness in your genitals which can not be explained.
32. Have had back or neck problems, T-3 vertebrae out often, or awoken with an unusual stiffness in any part of the body.
33. Have had chronic sinusitis or nasal problems.
34. Have had electronics around you go haywire or oddly malfunction with no explanation (such as street lights going out as you walk under them, TV's and radios affected as you move close, etc.).

35. Have seen a hooded figure in or near your home, especially next to your bed.
36. Have had frequent or sporadic ringing in your ears, especially in one ear.
37. Have an unusual fear of doctors or tend to avoid medical treatment.
38. Have insomnia or sleep disorders which are puzzling to you.
39. Have had dreams of doctors or medical procedures.
40. Have frequent or sporadic headaches, especially in the sinus, behind one eye, or in one ear.
41. Have the feeling that you are going crazy for even thinking about these sorts of things.
42. Have had paranormal or psychic experiences, including intuition.
43. Have been prone to compulsive or addictive behaviour.
44. Have channelled telepathic messages from extraterrestrials.
45. Have been afraid of your closet, now or as a child.
46. Have had sexual or relationship problems (such as a mysterious "feeling" that you must not become involved in a relationship because it would interfere with "something" important you must do).
47. Have to sleep against the wall or must sleep with your bed against a wall.
48. Have a difficult time trusting other people, especially authority figures.
49. Have had dreams of destruction or catastrophe.
50. Have the feeling that you are not supposed to talk about these things, or that you should not talk about them.
51. Have tried to resolve these types of problems with little or no success.
52. Have many of these traits but can't remember anything about an abduction or alien encounter.

Indicators compiled by Melinda Leslie, edited by Mark Williams.

UFOs and the MoD

by Craig Carl Jackson.



Over the years the Ministry of Defence's response to UFO enquiries has been pretty routine, the party line being that if no breach of UK airspace is made then there is no problem.

However, the past two years has seen an upsurge in UFO sightings all over the country which cannot be easily dismissed. A large part of this wave includes the many reports of the Flying Triangle (or "FT") usually described as very large and coloured black with three intensely bright lights at each point and one large pulsating light in the middle. These craft are said to perform incredible manoeuvres from a hovering position to incredible speeds in a second. They are also seen flying very low to the ground and seem to be searching or monitoring something through a dazzling searchlight.

Surely this must be of some concern to the powers that be? Or are they fully aware of these craft and their purpose?

My enquiries have left me perplexed and confused about the MoD's position. In a recent letter they stated that at present 34 establishments in the UK are jointly run by the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force (USAF). There are no stealth aircraft at any of these bases. Only three times has an F-117 been seen in the UK, and those occasions were at public air shows (May 1995, RAF Waddington; October 1995, RAF Lakenheath; and May 1996, RAF Mildenhall). This is the official MoD position. I had heard rumours about RAF Boscombe Down being home to a US stealth aircraft called the **TR-3A**. I telephoned the base regarding Stealth and was told that I would be called back by the Public Affairs Officer the same day. I'm still waiting. This falls in line with a number of researchers who also drew a blank regarding enquiries of this nature. Both the U2 and the SR-71 have flown from UK air bases down the years, both of them top secret aircraft at one time.

Could the next generation of top secret stealth aircraft be flying in our skies now? And are the authorities quite happy with them being seen as UFOs? Or is something more sinister going on?

Editor's comment: Presumably then, *none* of the FTs that have been reported are stealth fighters or bombers, if the MoD is to be believed. Let us assume that these FTs are secret military

aeroplanes - does it make sense for them to fly slowly over populated areas (over the M6 near Birmingham in one report) with their powerful lights on? The FT mystery is no nearer a solution.

BOOK REVIEWS

Reviews by the editor, unless otherwise indicated.

The Fortean Times Weird Year 1996

Edited by Joe McNally & James Wallis

John Brown Publishing, London, 1996. Softback, £7.99. 128 pages, colour illustrations and photographs. ISBN 1 870870 832

An excellent compilation of the weird and bizarre snippets that have appeared in the Strange Days section of the Fortean Times over the past year, plus a few extra articles thrown in for this volume: UFO crashes, strange telephone calls, alien implants, and Jenny Randles on Alien Contact and Abduction. While this book is great to flick through and handy to have around if you chat regularly to people on Fortean topics, it is hard to see who the book is aimed at; I would have thought that most of the people likely to consider buying it would already be regular readers of FT, and would have seen most of the contents. If FT want it to sell to a more general audience, I would suggest calling it "The Fortean Times collection of the Real X-Files" and putting a picture of a half naked Gillian Anderson on the cover. Hey, that would work for me. Or perhaps a half naked David Duchovny, whatever your preference is. Are you missing a few copies of FT from your collection this year? Are those few extra articles worth £7.99? The choice is yours.

UFO - The Government Files by Peter Brookesmith

Blandford, London, 1996. Hardback, £14.99. 176 pages, index, references and black & white photographs. ISBN 0 7137 2635 0

A large handsome book this, containing many black and white photographs. Less useful than Brookesmith's previous book, "The complete sightings catalogue", this book could be called the Complete book of American UFOlogy, concentrating as it does on the United States; Understandably, as America has always been the driving force in UFOlogy as in so many other things. Brookesmith casts his critical eye over such topics as Roswell (including the Santilli film footage), MJ-12, The Linda Napolitano/Manhattan Transfer case, cattle mutilations, Project Blue Book and the Condon investigation. Indeed, many of the classic cases are discussed along with the internal goings on of the UFO groups and government. It would have been nice to have a few cases from this country included - is the book aimed primarily at the US market? Brookesmith is much criticised for his sceptical approach and "armchair UFOlogy"; in a review of this book in UFO journal "Awareness", Lionel Beer wrote, "Why does the phrase 'pompous git' come so readily to mind?". I would say that we need writers like Brookesmith, his logic is sound and he applies Occam's Razor effectively. I may not agree with everything he writes, but it makes a refreshing and clear headed change from the vast amount of credulous and sensationalist nonsense written by, and for, those people who want nothing more than to believe in aliens. Writing as a UFOlogist and as someone who wants to discover the truth, I am proud to have this volume on my shelf, and I will probably refer to it on a regular basis. Recommended.

The Catalogue of Ghost Sightings by Brian Innes

Blandford, London, 1996. Hardback, £14.99. 160 pages, index, appendices, black and white photographs. ISBN 0 7137 2634 2

Congratulations to Blandford for producing another large, fine book with many wonderful pictures and moody photographs. The book is broken into nine chapters and six useful appendices. It includes many classic cases including Willington Mill, Newcastle, Borley Rectory (of course), The Ghost of Flight 401, Witchcraft in Salem, and the Amityville Horror. The author gives us the story behind each case and then offers us an incisive and well informed commentary. Chapter eight deals with poltergeists and the final chapter deals with "The Vanishing Hitch-hiker and other Urban Myths". A reference volume well worth having, it will provide the

essential details of a case before you go off to find a more detailed work on a particular haunting. Recommended, if you haven't already got something similar on your bookshelf.

Dimensions - A Casebook of Alien Contact by Jacques Vallee

Souvenir Press, London, 1996. Paperback, £7.99. 304 pages, index. ISBN 0 285 63362 7

Full marks to Souvenir for reissuing Vallee's 1988 classic, with the foreword written by Whitley Strieber. I don't find this an easy book to read, but it is well worth persevering as Vallee goes through the historical background and folklore of UFOlogy, and looks at many of the classic cases, trying to make some sense of it all. His conclusion? "The UFOs are real physical objects. Yet they are not necessarily extraterrestrial spacecraft. To put it bluntly, the extraterrestrial theory is not strange enough to explain the facts. And I will be disappointed if UFOs turn out to be nothing more than visitors from another planet", and he goes on to speculate about the other possibilities. A must-read for serious students of UFOlogy, although one would hope that most of them will already have a copy. If not, go out and get a copy NOW.

Journey into Supermind - A Step by Step Guide to Unlocking your Inner Potential by Dr Richard Lawrence

Souvenir Press, London, 1996. Paperback, £8.99. 203 pages, index. ISBN 0 285 63252 3

A new age self improvement manual, welding together western mystical exercises with eastern philosophy, exercises and concepts. Each of the chapters contains theory and practical exercises for you to improve yourself with. Exercises include: Relaxing the mind, memory improvement, enhancing your self image, changing your mood, left and right nostril breathing, sending love energy to the world, contemplation on greatness, and a couple of telepathy exercises to finish. As an astronomer, I'm particularly fond of exercise **twenty three**, "Contemplation on the Cosmic Whole". Lawrence is an Executive Secretary of the Aetherius Society, and Sir George King gets several mentions in the book, as does Lawrence's belief that Jesus Christ came from another planet. But don't let that put you off - indeed, if you are the sort of person who would purchase a book like this, then I'm sure it wouldn't - I can see many of the exercises being useful and positive, especially if you believe that they are going to work. If you have the time and patience to go through all of the exercises thoroughly, this book is probably one of the best "self improvement" books available on the new age bookshelf. As for me though, I'll stick to beer and weight lifting.

Contacts with the Gods from Space by George King with Richard Lawrence

Published 1996 by the Aetherius Society, 6202 Afton Place, Hollywood, California 90028, USA. 160 pages, index, bibliography, black and white photographs. Paperback, no price given.

A fascinating and surprisingly well written journey into the mind of George King and the workings of the Aetherius Society. Prayer Power, contacts with alien beings, "The true history of Mankind" (chapter three), religion, philosophy...quite amazing. This book should come with a free pair of pliers, so you can pinch yourself occasionally and bring yourself back to the real world. Is George King genuine? If so, is he severely disturbed? Or is it all a huge con? Surely not! In some respects I don't think it really matters, and either way, George King is a remarkable fellow. The black and white photographs show King in a variety of dramatic poses, up a mountain, charging a prayer battery, driving his boat, and receiving a cosmic transmission (by the look of him, via something he is sitting on). The Aetherians are at the worst harmless, and this entertaining book should give the psychologists a field day. Thanks to Stan Greenwood for providing this review copy.

The Poltergeist Phenomenon by John and Anne Spencer.

Headline Book Publishing, 338 Euston Road, London, NW1 3BH. Price £19.99, hardback.

Both John and Anne Spencer will be familiar to many paranormal and UFO enthusiasts as researchers who have been at the forefront of UFO and paranormal research for many years. This,

their new book, is a step into the poltergeist phenomenon which essentially discusses many of the world's best poltergeist events.

We kick off with a general overview about what essentially is a poltergeist in which the reader is informed that poltergeist phenomena go back well into antiquity, and some early historical (or should that be "hysterical"?) cases are presented. The book then moves on to some modern cases which includes Scotland's most famous case, which occurred in the village of Sauchie (pronounced Saw-Kay) which is quite near to where this reviewer lives in Alloa. I assisted both John and Anne with research on this one, and as it stands the Sauchie poltergeist is a classic. (Oh, where are those cases now?!)

Case by case are examined by the authors, throwing up some very alarming and disturbing incidents which to some degree traumatised the witnesses. We then move on to the core elements of poltergeist effects, the scratching and rapping noises so commonly reported. Communication by writing is also examined, as is possession and contact with the dead. There are of course divided camps in which certain researchers believe that we are not dealing with deceased individuals, but that it is all down to psychokinesis, the unconscious movement of objects by a young and possibly disturbed pubescent child. The other camp think that we are dealing with nasty and troublesome deceased individuals out to cause havoc and disruption. But if that is so, then why don't we have more of these cases in this troubled world?

All in all, this book is a real eye opener and to this reviewer is one of the best poltergeist case study books that I have read. This is a concise educational trip through traumatic personal experiences which deserves your attention, and wherever you lay your hat (in the real or PK camp) this book deserves to be in your home, whether it is haunted or not!

Reviewed by **Malcolm Robinson**.

You can check out the **Strange Phenomena Investigations website** at <http://www.angel.co.uk/archmage/spi/spihome.htm>

Conference Review:

Psychic Questing Conference, 2/3 November 1996.

A two day event held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square in London. The venue was a grand old hall, but uncomfortably hot for much of the conference. The heat lulled some of the audience into sleep during the less interesting moments; "less interesting" is subjective of course, and the conference covered a wide range of topics. Organiser and author Andrew Collins, Paul Weston and David Southwell, gave insights into the practice and perils of questing in their talks. Collins also gave the opening talk, on the topic of the Nephilim which is covered in his latest book "From the Ashes of Angels". The biggest name on the bill was Adrian Gilbert, the co-author of "The Orion Mystery". His talk was based on his trek across Kurdistan and the Middle East and had a marvellous collection of slides. I'm sure there was a theme to it, but it came across as his holiday snaps which I found somewhat disappointing. Perhaps cutting it down a little would have made the point of his journey more clear to the audience.

The stars of the event were Jack Gale, talking about Glastonbury, and Graham Phillips who is the author of "The Green Stone" and more recently the popular "The Search for the Grail". Without any visual aids he gave two witty, informative and well received talks. Biggest let down of the weekend had to be the special guest, Pat Mills, the creator of 2000AD comic. Being raised on a diet of Judge Dredd and other 2000AD regulars, I was looking forwards to listening to the man who single handedly revitalised the British SF/Fantasy comic scene. But as he spoke, he came across as a somewhat sad, isolated and possibly schizophrenic individual. I don't think any of us in the audience knew what to make of him; when it came to questions at the end, no-one wanted to ask him a thing.

The Sunday afternoon was devoted to a visit, led by Andy Collins with a feather in his large hat, around the British Museum. He guided us around various exhibits relating to his Nephilim theory, explaining the significance of each item and guiding meditations on the historical objects (leading to strange looks from many of the museum staff and other visitors).

Compared to the average UFO conference, the talks over this weekend covered a much wider range of topics. Indeed, by covering such topics as dowsing, ancient wisdom and artefacts, the Cthulhu mythos, dimension jumps and other paranormal events, this questing conference may be more relevant to UFOlogy than the topics discussed at most UFO conferences - preoccupied as they are these days with abductions, alleged crashes, and multiple conspiracies.

The audience was the usual wide mix of the population, although, as normal, leather jackets, ponytails and Celtic tattoos were much in evidence. Cool. Everyone had a good time, except for the boulder who emptied his stomach contents over several seats in the balcony and the people in those seats. Due, no doubt, to that flat southern beer. That woke everyone up. At £13 a ticket for both days it wasn't cheap, but it did offer good value. If you can get to next year's conference, try to get there just to find out what Questing, and life in the fringe, is like.



Other Visions, Other Lives: George Hunt Williamson

by Dean James

Posterity has yet to acknowledge the achievements of pioneer contactee George Hunt Williamson, who died in 1986 at the relatively early age of 60. Always a mercurial figure, he shunned the limelight and in John Keel's words "spent a lot of time probing around the ancient ruins of South America." His books were utterly unique, reflecting a sensibility steeped in Theosophy and the occult. Unfortunately, their sheer dottiness denied them a wide audience, and although UFOlogy owes Williamson himself a sizeable dowry, his work is in danger of being forgotten.

At first glance, Abelard Productions' Other Voices, with its glossy cover illustration and intriguing title, may seem to offer hardcore Williamson collectors the promise of something new; a hitherto unpublished treasure trove of vintage saucer lore. Sadly this impression isn't borne out by the contents, which prove on closer inspection to comprise the text of Williamson's first book, The Saucers Speak, padded out with some 30 pages of new material by Timothy Green Beckley.

The Saucers Speak was written in collaboration with failed chiropractor Alfred C. Bailey, who was at the time working as a railway conductor. First published in 1954, it purported to be "a documentary record of interstellar communication by radiotelegraphy." The new Abelard edition is full of details which, in the light of current scientific knowledge, are demonstrably false, and must have caused considerable bemusement even in the 1950s.

"The Sun is not a hot, flaming body," readers are assured at one point; "it is a cold body... You think the Sun gives off heat because you can 'feel' it. [But] certain forces come from the Sun, and when they enter the Earth's magnetic field, this resonating field causes friction. And from friction you get heat." And again: "Pluto is not the cold, dreary world astronomers picture it to be, [and] Mercury is not a hot, dry world. All planets have the same temperature, regardless of distance from the Sun..."

Some of the saucer-men's pronouncements are garbled and incoherent; others frankly beggar belief. Events reach a kind of burlesque nadir when Zo of Neptune solemnly informs Williamson and his colleagues that a Bugs Bunny cartoon titled Hasty Hare contains information vital to their research. "We mentioned Bugs Bunny to you several times before, but you thought it foolish and didn't enter it in your records," he chides; adding that while his instructions may occasionally seem ridiculous, "[that] is the way we do things at times." (On the other hand, Zo also dismisses American soap operas as "Pooh," so his critical faculties appear basically sound.)

It should be obvious even from this brief summary that Other Voices is no ordinary channelled book. The narrative is chiefly remarkable for its occult subtext, which hints at the true origin and meaning of flying saucers. Like Tennyson's Lady of Shalott, Williamson himself saw life always through a magic mirror. Everything he wrote had a firm basis in personal experience. His books were trademarked by a kind of mystic strangeness, and Other

Voices is no exception. As a study of latter-day folklore in the making, it deserves a place on any serious UFOlogist's bookshelf.

In Memory of Prof. Carl Sagan by John McDonald

Professor Carl Sagan: Astronomer, writer, broadcaster. Born in Brooklyn, New York, 9th November 1934; Professor of Astronomy and Space Science at Cornell University, 1976 - 1996. Died in Seattle, Washington, 20th December 1996.

In early December 1996 Channel 4 broadcast as part of the "Equinox" series a programme entitled "Identified flying objects". As anyone with a background in UFOlogy could tell from the three minute trailer that seemed to be on between every programme for the proceeding week, here at last would be a programme, a serious programme, on the mysterious lights in the sky (LITS) people have been seeing for many years, perhaps centuries.

As many has already assumed, one of the main contributors was the British researcher Paul Devereux who, in the early 1980s, had published the fascinating book "Earthlights" which to my mind had satisfactorily explained at least some UFO sightings. In brief, Devereux proposed that LITS were the product of movements in the Earth's crust, especially in areas of great geological stress. Another contributor was a scientist from the University of Tromsø who had been studying LITS at a remote area of Norway called Hessdalen. From the USA the case was put by another reputable scientist, Michael Persinger. All in all this programme was doing a very good job of proving the Earthlights theory for perhaps many UFO sightings - even Kenneth Arnold's epoch making sighting of July 1947 was held up for re-examination. His sighting had taken place in the Cascade Mountains, an area of high tectonic stress. This was a fact that I'd never heard mentioned before in the score of reports I'd read about the famous Arnold sighting.

Then suddenly onto the screen came a familiar but somehow terribly aged face, which then spoke with the wry, amused voice of the world famous astronomer and UFO sceptic Professor Carl Sagan.

I was stunned by his appearance. OK, I hadn't seen him on TV since 1980 and his amazing 13 part TV series "Cosmos". Back then he'd been a handsome man with a wonderful head of thick brown hair, hip in a sort of California, Beach Boy type way. Now he appeared to be an ancient man, at least 75. I had no way of knowing that when he made that recording for Equinox he was a very sick man who must have known that he was dying.

This was the man responsible for the Voyager disc, the famous gold-plated LP record containing over 100 hundred photographs and greetings in almost 60 languages, and 90 minutes of music from Bach to Chuck Berry and including many cultures and traditions. In the airless environment of deep space this artefact would last for aeons, and perhaps during that immense timespan someone, somewhere out there, would find Voyager and Earth's cosmic message in a bottle, and our planet and our many cultures would survive no matter what happened back here on Terra. [Providing that aliens still have LP record players, and vinyl hasn't been replaced by the intergalactic conspiracy of CD manufacturers - Ed.]

His 1980 TV show "Cosmos" must have introduced many people to the wonders of the universe, quasars, black holes, galaxies, nebulae. He showed viewers everything from the bridge of his imaginary starship. For a generation brought up on Star Trek this was the most natural way to learn of the *real* universe, not Gene Roddenberry's capitalist Starship Enterprise version.

I next heard of him in 1985 when I read his wonderful, truly awe inspiring SF novel "Contact" which deals with humanity's reaction to a message received by radio telescope from an advanced civilization. Eventually we realise - with the aid of supercomputers - that we are being instructed in advanced alien technology which enables us to make a machine that teleports objects and people out to meet these wonderful beings. You could tell by the enthusiasm with which it was written that here was a man yearning to meet alien cultures and full of the wonder of the possibilities it would bring.

Many people in the UFO community couldn't reconcile this side of the man, this lover of aliens, with his public pronouncements on

UFOs. To them, in their blinkered vision, UFO meant alien spacecraft, rather than *unidentified* flying object. Professor Sagan reminded us of this every chance he got and also showed just how many UFOs were misperceptions of natural, astronomical or technological (human, that is) phenomena.

The USA no longer has what could be termed a UFOlogical "community". The scene has split into bitter factions each fighting for his or her own special interest group. Objectivity has long since gone out of the window. The most venal hatred is reserved for the writer and world class skeptic Phillip Klass - to Klass, every UFO is a hoax, a lie or a misperception. This man is actually booed and hissed at like some pantomime villain if he dares to make an appearance at a UFO conference. Professor Sagan is not hated so openly and vigorously as Klass, probably because of his work with SETI - he was one of the original proponents - perhaps because he introduced many UFOlogists to the wonders of the *Cosmos* back in 1980! Who knows...

In the minds of a great many people he was the greatest living astronomer for many years, well I don't know about the greatest but he was certainly the most famous astronomer and in the USA fame itself is the essence of greatness - how else can one understand the mega fame of second raters like Madonna or Michael Jackson. [Careful - Ed.]

It has been estimated by those who are paid to do such things that "Cosmos" has been seen by more than 10 percent of the total world population. His penultimate book "Pale Blue Dot" looked forward to a time when homo sapiens has managed to escape self destruction or the destruction of our home the Earth and where future generations can look back to the Pale Blue Dot from which all our kind sprang. If we do manage to survive our genius for destruction so that one day our children will go to the stars, it will be because of people like Carl Sagan.

The inhabitants of the Pale Blue Dot mourn his passing.

Copyright: John McDonald 1996.

Editor's Comment: Carl Edward Sagan may well be remembered with mixed feelings by some in the UFOlogical community. He was somewhat of an enigma as far as UFOs went. On the one hand, when Dr Edward Condon and the Air Force wanted to destroy the BLUE BOOK files when the project was discontinued, Carl Sagan and Thornton Page circulated a letter and petition to save the files for future study. They gained much support and the USAF decided to save the files. For this, Sagan incurred the wrath of Condon who tried hard to prevent Sagan from gaining membership into the prestigious Cosmos Club in Washington D.C. It was also due to Sagan and Thornton Page that the American Association for the Advancement of Science held a symposium on UFOs, against much pressure. (1) The UFOlogical community has much reason to thank Sagan.

On the other hand, Sagan also served on the Board of Directors of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, better known just as CSICOP (who have in fact only ever performed one scientific investigation; the statistician quit the project, way back in 1982, claiming that CSICOP fiddled his figures to suit their own prejudices. (2))

Sagan may or may not have been a great astronomer, but as John McDonald touched on above, we now live in a world ruled by TV and the media. Sagan was a good writer and populariser of science and at ease in front of the camera, so it was only natural that he became a world famous scientist, far ahead of his less photogenic academic colleagues. It is a shame that so many of the great people of our times are anonymous; the fame goes to actors, entertainers and those famous for simply being famous.

Robert Anton Wilson holds up Sagan as a prime example of a modern day expert. (3) Writing in 1995, Wilson said "If anybody possesses all the qualifications necessary for a fully ordained expert in America today, Carl Sagan certainly has that dizzying eminence. Through frequent appearances on TV and in Parade [a US news magazine] Dr Sagan has issued Expert verdicts on every possible controversial issue in science, and in politics, and even in theology, for three decades now. And...he has never once admitted he ever made a mistake." Wilson naturally goes on to catalogue some of Sagan's errors and contradictory statements, with particular reference to his long running "crusade" (4) against Dr Immanuel

Velikovsky (the author of best selling book "Worlds in Collision"), and Sagan's much criticised (in scientific circles) theory of "nuclear winter". Said Wilson, "Sagan never fails to use every dirty trick he knows" and "Now do you know how to become an expert? Keep a straight face and make sure the mass media gives you more coverage than it gives those who try to correct your mis-statements."

Saint and/or sinner, 62 years of age is still a young age to die, and from a cruel bone marrow disease. Contrast his untimely demise with Aleister Crowley, "dubbed by the tabloids 'The wickedest man who ever lived' and he spent the whole of his life trying to live up to the title... Because of this total hedonism, giving in to any and every temptation of the flesh he could think of (and taking a few suggestions from friends) he died tragically young at the age of 72." (5) Is there any justice in this world?

To finish with a quote from Sagan himself, talking about SETI: "It says something about the rarity and preciousness of life on this planet...The flip side of not finding life on another planet is appreciating life on Earth". (6)

(1) Source: E mail from Edward G. Stewart via UFO UpDates - Toronto. 12/22/96

(2) See article by the statistician, Dennis Rawlins in the October 1981 issue of FATE for information on this statistical study.

(3) Robert Anton Wilson, Cosmic Trigger Vol3; New Falcon, Tempe Arizona, 1995.

(4) Ibid. Wilson's wording, not mine

(5) A.C.Rae, Bluff your way in the Occult; Ravette Books, London 1992.

(6) Source: E mail from Norma Quarles, CNN Interactive 12/21/96

Letters



Out of the usual post bag full of cheques, begging letters, abuse, praise, and requests for signed photographs comes this request from Mik Burley. Any replies, and any comments for publication can be sent via the Strange Daze postal address.
Sir/

I have subscribed to Strange Daze for some time now, and always look forward to the next edition. Your mixture of factual reporting and humour make Strange Daze one of the biggest value for money items on the market today. (Let's hope the Government don't create a "Quality Publication Tax", as they did with VAT, otherwise Strange Daze will have to double in price!) [Don't overdo it - Ed.]

However, rejoining my original track of thought, I have noticed that a lot of people around me are one of three schools of thought:
1) No, there is **nothing** other than what we can see right in front of us;

2) Yes, there is definitely something, other than what is in front of us;

3) I am prepared to consider the possibilities of there being an alternative to what I see in front of me.

During the early part of 1992, yourself and Gloria Dixon interviewed me about my 1978 experience (during a football game at school) and I was uncertain as to the exact method of my disappearance from the field.

At the time of that interview, I said I did not know if the "beings" were ET's for definite but, due to my being missing, I considered that to be the answer. I am still of that opinion, I am still uncertain as to my whereabouts when I saw four beings around me, and what it was that they did to me, having a scar on my right hand side.

During a fairly unpleasant episode of father - son disagreement, I found many insignificant memories and details from my childhood flooding uncontrollably back, whilst I was at work. Many had been forgotten, or "blanked out" deliberately. My years as a child were riddled with abuse, physical, mental and verbal. I would be beaten for the smallest mistake, ridiculed for being amused by comedy adverts or programmes, even though I was not allowed to watch TV very often. The mental abuse was in the form of trying to blame me or whatever had gone wrong, "I'll make the little b***** feel guilty" seemed to be my fathers main aim.

As I said, small details came flooding back to me when I least expected them. I have used self regression and relaxation techniques on a regular basis and have brought out a lot of "dark" memories from the proverbial cupboard. One such recalled memory was of a dream that I used to have on a regular basis. As I wrote to Philip Mantle:

I am stood in front of what appears to be a row of flat roof terraced houses. Across the road, there is another row of flat roof terraced houses and from behind them is a loud growling noise. Above the "roof" of the "house" I am looking across to, I see a head on a long neck appear. It appears to be a dinosaur of the T-Rex family. The head comes down onto the roof and bites a chunk out, leaving a large gap. The "T-Rex" then goes up the road, turns the corner and then comes down the same road that I am standing on. I am not scared, even though it is coming straight towards me.

The one puzzling thought that I used to have at the time was, if it is a T-Rex, and it is coming to get me, why doesn't it just smash its way through the houses? Why does it go around them if it is so powerful? For at least 12 months now I have been working on containers out of Teesdock, Hull and Immingham. It was during the morning that I was waiting to get a box lifted onto my lorry that I remembered this dream, and this is the interpretation I now have:

I am stood in front of a double stack row of containers, looking across to another row of double stack of containers. From behind the row opposite to me, I hear the 600bhp "stacker truck" growling as the driver revs the engine to power the hydraulics. The "head" come down onto the top of the container opposite to me ("the roof"), the twist locks clunk into place on the corners ("bites") and the box is lifted down onto an awaiting wagon. This leaves a large gap where the container had been. The stacker truck drives along that row, turns the corner, and then comes towards me, to lift down the container that I am wanting.

The stacker truck used for containers is a recent design, not more than 10 years old. When the hydraulic boom is raised and extended, it looks not too unlike a T-Rex backbone. The puzzling detail of this scenario is that I was about five years old when I started having this dream.

The point I am trying to make is that even though we do not understand what we see, and try to explain away the evidence, we should keep an open mind as to all possible answers to the puzzle. None of us have all of the answers. We therefore should not be arrogant enough to think that we know the truth behind what we see.

At the time of having this dream, the machine involved had not been invented, nor were there any machines like it.

On reflection, the strange events I have endured are not all explainable. However, there are a lot of possibilities as to what they were. In some of the cases, they may be strung together, if those possibilities are realities that we do not yet understand.

Following a two year period on sick leave due to a road traffic accident, I returned to wagon driving. After four months, I found myself to be having another meeting with four beings. This time, I was standing in front of one of them. On remembering your words, "might they have been inter dimensional as opposed to extra-terrestrial?" I reached out, and took hold of the very thin creature in front of me.

The material of its coverall/leotard was very much like a fine denier stocking. The rib cage was about 30 to 35 centimetres wide and the limbs were thin, but fleshy. The face and head were hairless and about the same size as ours. In proportion to the body, the head looked slightly out of place and this figure was about 150 to 160 centimetres (5 to 5 1/2 feet tall). I am uncertain as to the nature of these beings, however I have felt their solidity, body heat (slightly lower than ours) and had a good look into the hazel brown eyes and pale face of the one I had hold of. The facial expression was one of understanding my confusion towards what was going on, as though expecting me to "feel to confirm".

I would like to invite other "abductees", for want of a different word, to write to me as I am working on a theory that needs cooperation from others.

Thank you for taking the time to read my slightly long winded letter.

Yours, Mik Burley.

Mik Burley can be reached via the editorial address.

Competition!

We have two exciting bundles of (tatty old) books to give away, thanks to the publishers sending us brand spanking new copies to review.

Bundle One. There are seven titles in this Good, the Bad, and the Ugly collection of Ancient astronaut books. It features:

1. According to the Evidence, by Erich Von Daniken
2. The Spaceships of Ezekiel, by J. F. Blumrich
3. Ancient Astronauts: A Time Reversal?, by Robin Collings (Totally off the wall)
4. The Velikovsky Affair, edited by Alfred de Grazia (Re: Catastrophist Immanuel Velikovsky)
5. The Space-Gods Revealed, by Ronald Story (a clear thinking classic)
6. Can You Speak Venusian?, by Patrick Moore
7. Living with the Lama, by T. Lobsang Rampa. (Off the wall, round the bend and lost marbles a-go-go)

Question: Despite "Living with the Lama" having Lobsang Rampa's name on the cover, it was supposed to have been written by his cat. What was the name of the cat?

Bundle Two. Three volumes in this Charles Berlitz triple bill:

1. The Bermuda Triangle
2. Mysteries from Forgotten Worlds
3. The Mystery of Atlantis

Question: Who was Berlitz's co-author in the writing of "The Philadelphia Experiment" and "The Roswell Incident"?

Answers on a postcard by 1st April please. (Your chances of winning will be improved if the postcard is glued onto a can of beer. In fact, forget the answers and postcards: the prizes go to the two readers who send the best bribes.)





STOP PRESS... ISRAELI ALIEN SAMPLES

Readers may like to refer to the news items at the front of this issue for more information. Samples of the alleged alien substance were tested by a laboratory in England under the supervision of BUFORA, and below are extracts of a long e-mail giving results of the analysis:

BUFORA Analyses Israeli 'Dead Alien' Material

report by Mike Wootton

Director of Publications, British UFO Research Association

In the midst of intense international controversy, the British UFO Research Association has released its findings after an in-depth investigation of three samples alleged to be taken from a dead alien discovered in Israel.

Background

On 21st December 1996, after many reports of UFO sightings in the Galilee farming village of Achihod, an 'alien' which allegedly fell from a 'craft' was captured by a local kibbutz resident, Tziona Damti. The creature was described as being 5cm in length with human features, four limbs, no fingers and surrounded in a slimy material. It was further alleged that the creature was still alive on discovery but later died.

The Israeli media took great interest in the story and the Damti family along with local UFO researchers were certain that they had found something of great scientific and financial value. It was later claimed that the creature had been analysed by Israeli scientists who found that the creature was 'not of this world'. However, these claims have not been backed up with a report or an author of the comments. Other researchers and Israeli journalists speculated that the find was an aborted salamander foetus.

BUFORA's Involvement

Whilst the controversy raged, BUFORA was surprisingly contacted on 15th January by Israeli UFO researcher, Debby Segal, who along with Uriya Shai, were representing the Damti family. Debby requested that BUFORA analyse three samples taken from the

creature that she was bringing over to the UK. BUFORA agreed and commissioned a noted private lab to conduct the analysis.

The Analysis

The lab took delivery of the samples on 16th January and completed the work on 29th January. BUFORA had asked for an initial study to ascertain whether the samples supplied could be of extraterrestrial origin and whether further work would be justified. It was agreed that the carbon and nitrogen signatures of the samples should be examined to see whether there was a marked difference from the signatures that all terrestrial life would produce. Each sample was analysed three times (enough for the results to be legally admissible in a UK court).

The very latest, British designed, mass spectrometer equipment was used to conduct the analysis

The Results

The nine conducted tests showed that each signature fell well within terrestrial limits. Not included in the report is the assertion by the lab technicians that the signatures come very close to those expected from lizards and frogs.

"These values fall directly in the middle of expected values for terrestrially derived Carbon and Nitrogen and therefore we submit that these samples are of terrestrial origin and not extra terrestrial origin as originally anticipated."

Signed on behalf of LC2 Analytical Laboratories:

Keith Hall, Director

This is the first time that a British UFO research group has had the opportunity to examine samples that are alleged to be of an alien origin and it is the first time in nearly 20 years that the study of any UFO related material has been objectively analysed in the UK (the Livingston Case).

Conclusion

BUFORA is not disappointed with the results. We are an objective research organisation who approach the subject with an open mind. We work to ascertain facts and although we have a negative result, we have done what we set out to do and establish facts...

In the cold light of day, BUFORA is satisfied that this careful and precise analysis shows that what was discovered in Israel last December does have a terrestrial rather than extraterrestrial heritage. We are however, open to further discussion and are also willing to undertake further objective analysis of the samples. We are now unfortunately unable to finance any further work.

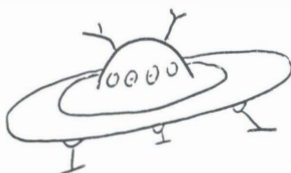
Mike Wootten

1st February 1997

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If you wish to advertise in Strange Daze, please send a free sample of your product to the editor. If it is any good, we'll advertise it for you. Failing that, a large envelope stuffed with notes should do the trick (preferably unmarked and with non-sequential serial numbers).

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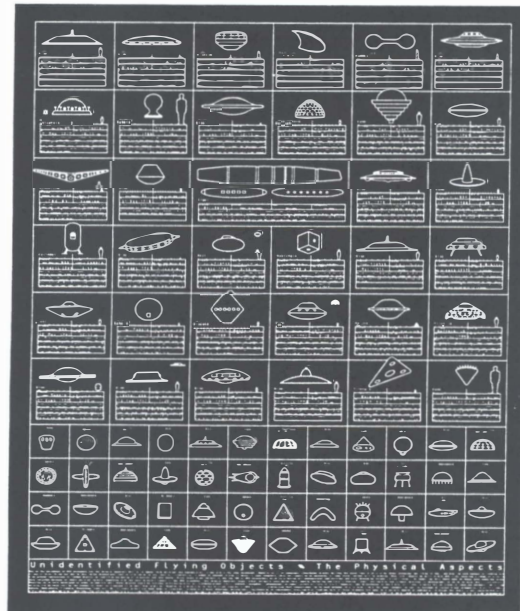
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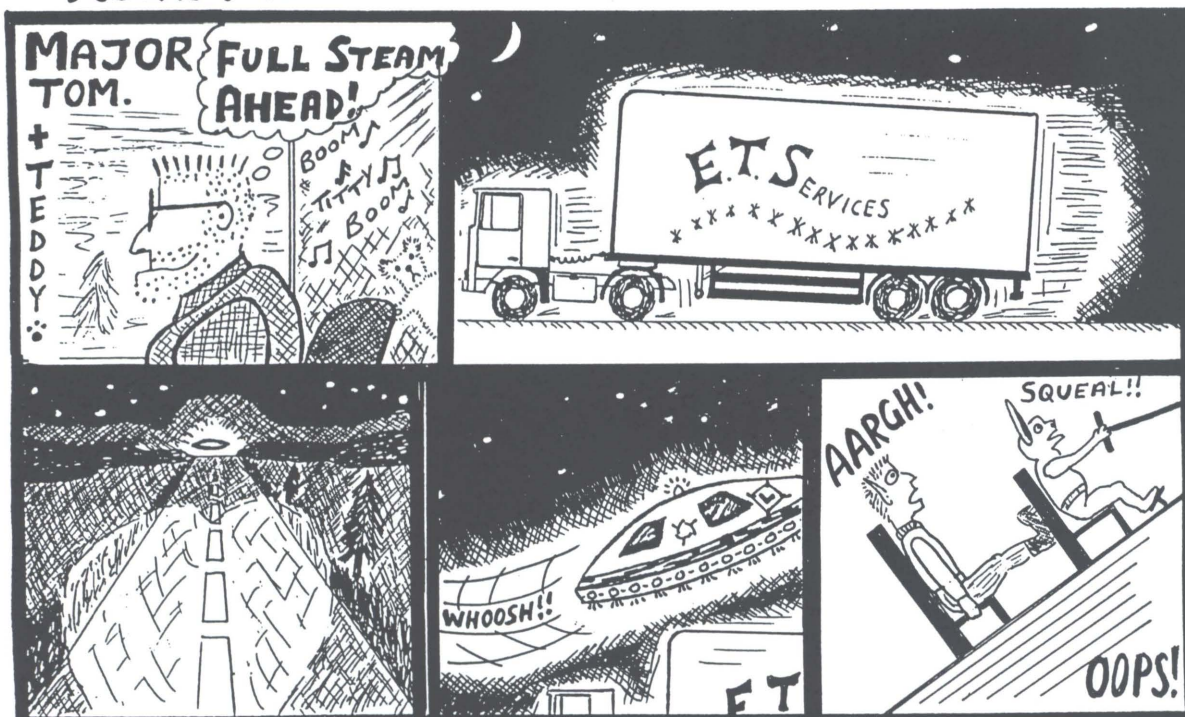
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Heck's Files

Sister Matilda « 2 »



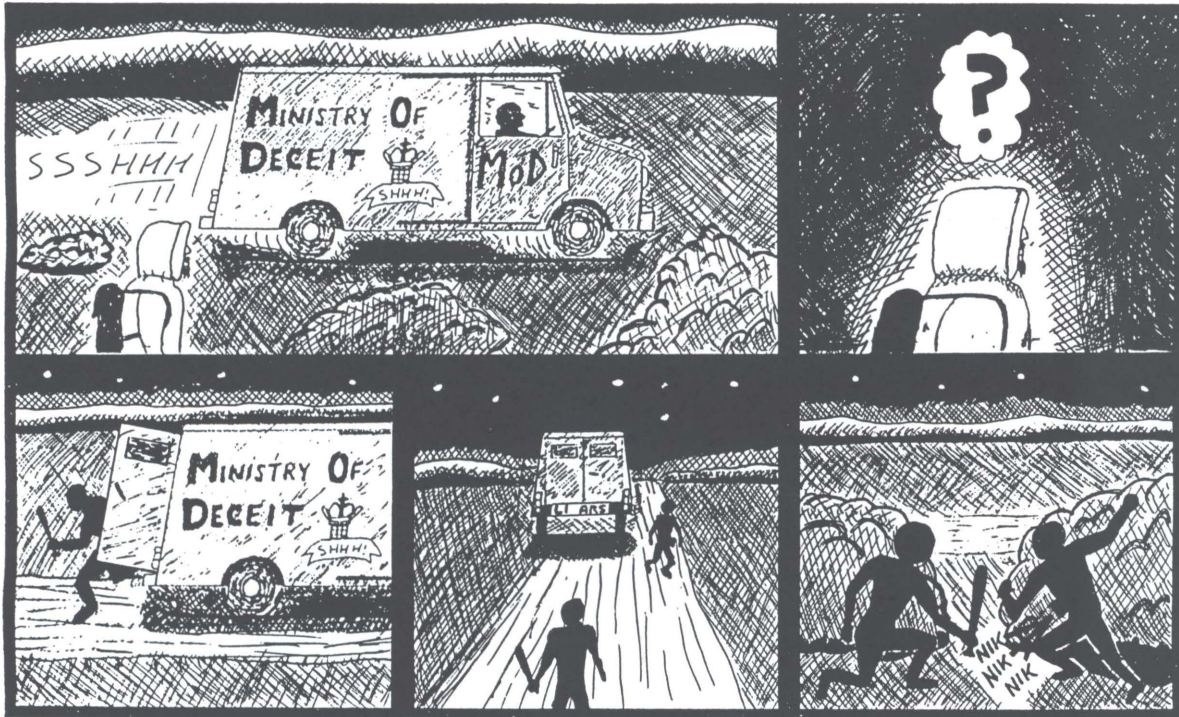
Heck's Files Case 3 Continued.



* Mik*
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Heck's Files

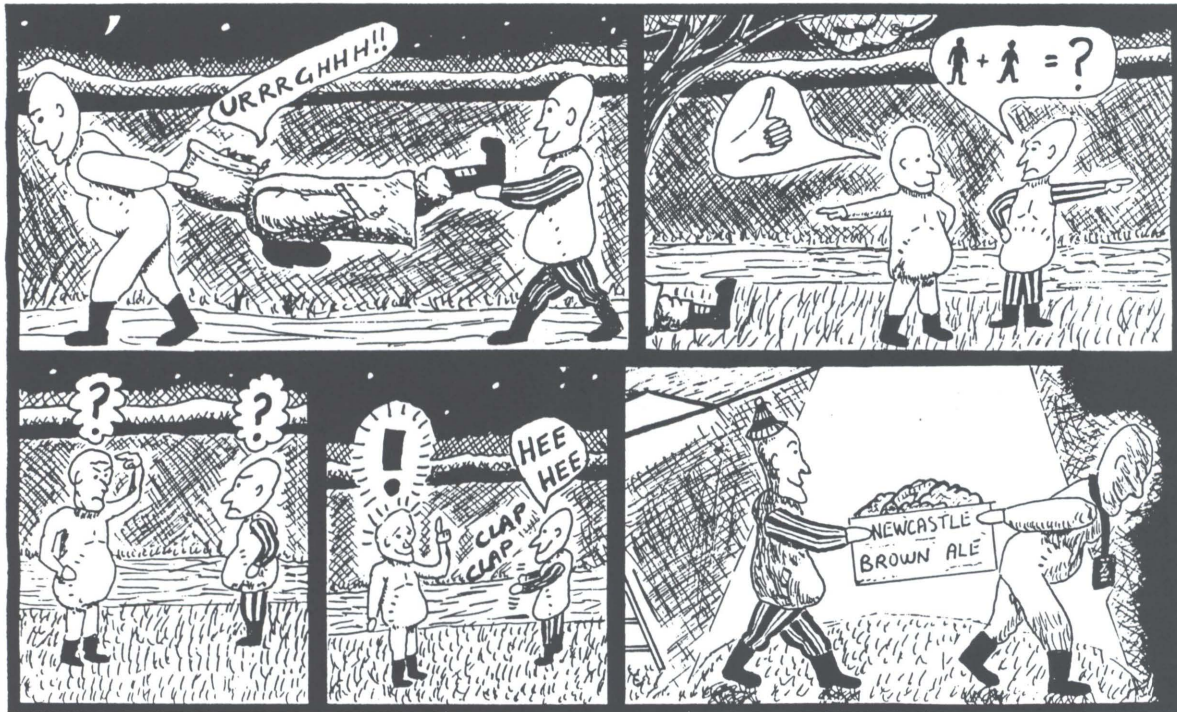
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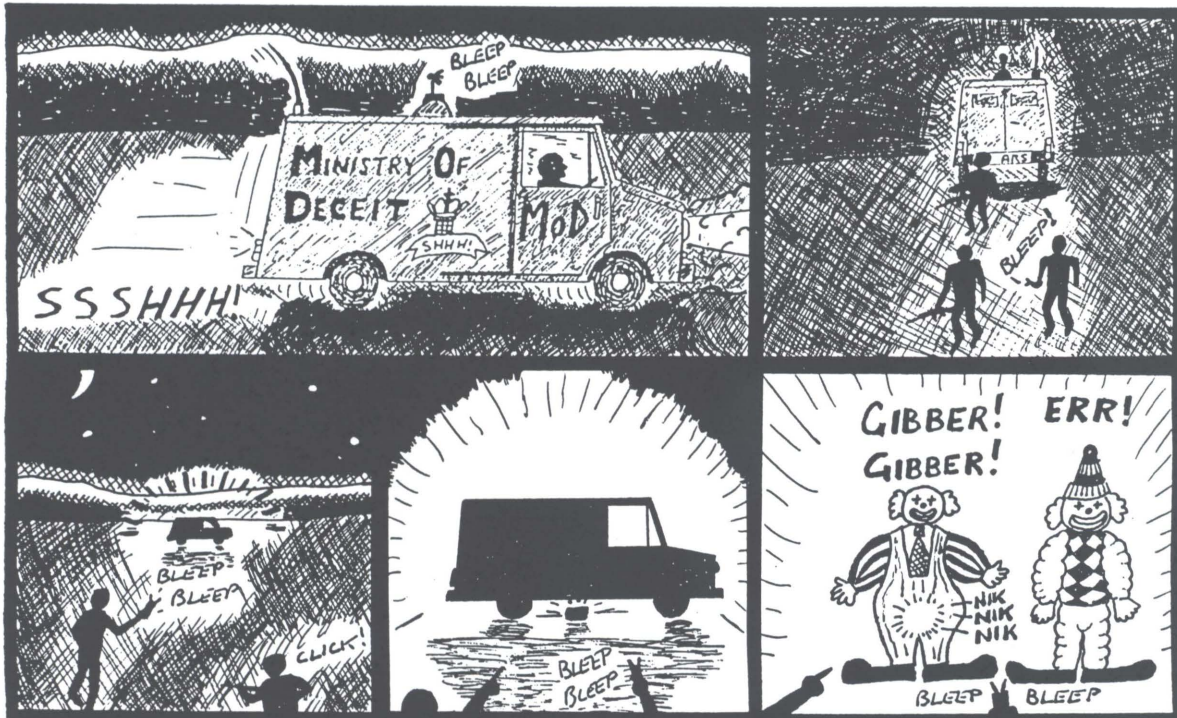


* Mik *
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Hecks' Files

M.o.D. 3



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1996

THEY COME FROM THE DARKEST VACUUM OF OUR UNIVERSE...

...IN SEARCH OF BEER AND CHEAP THRILLS!!

Oi! I'M HUNGRY!

RIGHT, THEN.
LET'S LAND ON
EARTH & MUTILATE
SOME CATTLE!

SEVERAL
MUTILATIONS
LATER....

BURP!
THAT'S
BETTER!

HEY, LOOK! ISN'T
THAT GEORGE
ADAMSKI?

QUICK! PUT THE
WATERCOOLER ON
YER HEAD & DO
THE 'SPACE-BROTHERS'
BULLSHIT ROUTINE!!



WE COME FROM
THE PLANET 'BIGDIE'
TO WARN YOU, EARTH
PEOPLE! YOU HAVE TOO
MANY COWS, AND THEIR
METHANE EMISSIONS ARE
DESTROYING YOUR ATMOSPHERE!
WE ARE SHOWING YOU THE WAY
BY REMOVING THEIR UDDERS...
...AND BITS. TAKE HEED, SPACE BROTHER!

HOLY COW! I FEEL
ANOTHER BOOK
COMING ON!!

RIGHT! OFF TO
TODMORDEN FOR A
CRATE OF BODDIES
& SOME FIT
CRACK..

..ABDUCTION TABLE
SET UP? GOT LINDA
CORTILE'S PHONE NUMBER
HANDY?!